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THE ARMY.

ULYSSES S. GRANT,

President and Commander-in-Chief

WAR DEPARTMENT.

W. W. Belknap, Secretary of War.

Brigadier-General E. D. Townsend, Adjutant-General.

G. O. No. 13, WASHINGTON, Feb. 18, 1875.

Gratuitous Issues of Clothing.

I. To enable the Department to determine between cases coming under the provisions of Par. 55, Appendix B, Revised Army Regulations of 1863, and those in which relief can only be afforded by special act of Congress, recommendations for gratuitous issues of clothing to replace articles lost by fire, flood, or other casualty, should in all cases be accompanied by full and specific information of the facts and circumstances attending the loss; and where relief is claimed under the provisions of said paragraph, it should be so stated, and the data called for therein should be furnished, viz: report of Board of Survey in each case, setting forth the facts, with copies of the orders under which the clothing was lost, showing that it was lost, not by the fault of the men, but in obedience to orders given by sufficient authority. In this connection attention is invited to General Orders No. 23, May 30, 1868, from this office, relative to gratuitous issues to replace clothing destroyed to prevent contagion.

II. The monthly reports of Commissary Sergeants, required by General Orders No. 38, of March 20, 1873, will be forwarded through the Post Commander and Chief Commissary at Department Headquarters to the Adjutant-General of the Army, to note and refer to the Commissary-General of Subsistence.

G. O. No. 14, WASHINGTON, Feb. 19, 1875.

The following Act of Congress is published for the information and government of all concerned:

AN Act making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defence for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, Eighteen hundred and seventy-six.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums be, and the same are hereby, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the following fortifications and other works of defence, for the fiscal year ending June Thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, to-wit:

For Fort Preble, Portland Harbor, Me., ten thousand dollars.
For Fort Scammel, Portland Harbor, Me., twenty thousand dollars.
For completing batteries on Gerrish's Island, and at Jerry's Point, Portsmouth Harbor, New Hampshire, twenty thousand dollars.
For battery at Portland Head, Portland Harbor, Me., twenty thousand dollars.
For Fort Warren, Boston Harbor, Mass., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For battery at Long Island Head, Boston Harbor, Mass., thirty thousand dollars.
For Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, fifteen thousand dollars.
For fort on Dutch Island, west entrance to Narragansett Bay, R. I., twenty thousand dollars.
For Fort Trumbull, New London Harbor, Conn., twenty thousand dollars.
For fort on Willet's Point, East River, N. Y., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Schuyler, East River, N. Y., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Hamilton and additional batteries, New York Harbor, N. Y., ten thousand dollars.
For Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, N. Y. H., five thousand dollars.
For fort on the site of Fort Tompkins, Staten Island, N. Y. H., N. Y., twenty thousand dollars.
For Battery Hudson, N. Y. H., N. Y., fifteen thousand dollars.
For battery at Finn's Point, Delaware River, N. J., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For fort opposite Fort Delaware, Delaware River, twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Mifflin, Delaware River, Pa., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort McHenry, Baltimore Harbor, Md., twenty thousand dollars.
For Fort Monroe, Hampton Roads, Va., twenty thousand dollars.
For Fort Moultrie, Charleston Harbor, S. C., fifteen thousand dollars.
For Fort Pulaski, Savannah River, Ga., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Taylor and batteries, Key West, Fla., fifteen thousand dollars.
For Fort Jackson, Mississippi River, La., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Pickens, Pensacola Harbor, Fla., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Saint Philip, Mississippi River, La., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort Morgan, entrance to Mobile Bay, Ala., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For fort at Fort Point, entrance to San Francisco Harbor, Cal., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For Fort at Lime Point, San Francisco Harbor, Cal., twenty thousand dollars.
For fort on Alcatraz Island, harbor of San Francisco, Cal., twenty-five thousand dollars.
For torpedoes for harbor defences, and preservation of the same, one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars; *Provided*, That the money herein appropriated for torpedoes shall only be used in the establishment and maintenance of torpedoes to be operated from shore-stations for the destruction of an enemy's vessel approaching the shore or entering the channel and fairways of harbors.
For contingencies of fortifications, seventy-five thousand dollars.
For surveys and reconnaissances for sea-coast defences, thirty thousand dollars.
Approved, February 10, 1875.

Casualties among the Commissioned Officers of the U. S. Army reported to the Adjutant-General's Office during the week ending Saturday, February 20, 1875.

Second Lieutenant G. Geddes Smith, Twenty-third Infantry—Died February 13, 1875, at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming Territory.

ABSTRACT OF SPECIAL ORDERS.

Issued from the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, for the week ending February 21, 1875.

[No Special Orders were issued from the Adjutant-General's Office on the following dates: Wednesday, February 17, 1875; Friday, February 19, 1875; Monday, February 22, 1875].

Thursday, February 18.

Discharged.—Privates Colin C. Cox, alias Charles C. Cox, H. Seventh Cavalry; Sigmond Stein, K. Twelfth Infantry; Hospital Steward John Harrigan, at Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H., on receipt of this order at the place where he may be serving.

Saturday, February 20.

To be discharged.—Wagoner George M. Stine, K. First Infantry, now with his command; Privates William H. Johnston, F. First Infantry, now with his command; Charles Mack, General Service U. S. Army, with the Signal Service Detachment, at Fort Whipple, Va.; Richard O'Dowd, Jr., Signal Service, now in confinement at Fort Whipple, Va.; First Class Private Louis Bell, Ordnance Detachment, now at Detroit Arsenal, Mich.; Private John M. Smith, B. Fourth Cavalry; First Class Private James Molholland, Ordnance Detachment, now at Watervliet Arsenal, N. Y.

Transportation to Soldiers' Home.—Furnished John Riley, formerly private, D. Twelfth Infantry, from Camp Independence, Cal.

On the recommendation of the Chief of Engineers, Captain A. H. Holgate, Corps of Engineers, is relieved from duty on the Staff of the Commanding General Department of Texas, and will report in person for temporary duty to Major H. L. Abbot, Corps of Engineers, Willet's Point, N. Y.

Hospital Steward Myles J. Gaham, U. S. Army, now on duty at Fort McPherson, Neb., will, on account of "drunkenness and unreliability," be discharged the service of the United States on receipt of this order at the place where he may be serving.

Ordnance Sergeant Stanislaus Palowski, U. S. Army, is relieved from duty at Camp Supply, I. T., and on arrival of his successor will proceed to Charleston, S. C., and report in person to the commanding officer of that post for assignment to duty at Castle Pinckney, Charleston Harbor.

[No Special Orders of any kind to-day, February 24, 1875].

GENERAL COURT-MARTIAL ORDERS.

G. C.-M. O. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 7, and 8, Washington, Jan. 14, 21, 22, 1875.—Relate to trials, etc., of enlisted men.

G. C. M. O. No. 5, Washington, Jan. 21, 1875.—Publishes proceedings of a General Court-martial which convened at St. Louis Barracks, Mo., Jan. 2, 1875, pursuant to S. O. No. 275, dated December 23, and No. 277, dated December 28, 1874, W. D., A.-G. O., Washington, D. C., and of which Major B. A. Clements, Surgeon, U. S. Army, is president. The cases were those of Sergeant Carl Gerber, C. Fourth Cavalry, and Recruit Maurice Hanlon, Fifth Cavalry, on the charge of "Desertion." The accused were found guilty and sentenced to forfeit pay and allowances, to be dishonorably discharged, and to be imprisoned for eighteen months. Upon the recommendation of the Judge-Advocate-General, the proceedings in the foregoing cases, are set aside, and the prisoners will be released from confinement and discharged the service.

G. C.-M. O. No. 6, Washington, Jan. 22, 1875.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at Camp Bowie, Arizona Territory, November 16, 1874, pursuant to S. O. No. 100, Headquarters Department of Arizona, Prescott, November 3, 1874, and of which Major W. B. Royall, Fifth Cavalry, is president, was arraigned and tried: Second Lieutenant Edward L. Keyes, Fifth Cavalry. Charge—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." The specifications alleged the violation of his written pledge to his commanding officer, Captain Samuel A. Sumner, Fifth Cavalry, to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors for five years. The accused pleaded "Not Guilty." The court found the accused guilty of the specifications with a change of dates and also of the charge, and sentenced him "To be dismissed the service of the United States." The proceedings, findings, and sentence are approved by the President. Four out of the five members of the court, as it was composed when the sentence was passed, recommend the accused to clemency for the reason that, in their opinion, "Lieutenant Keyes is capable of becoming a valuable officer and an ornament to the Service, his only fault being in his predilection for the use of intoxicating liquor." The reviewing authority has found much difficulty in discovering ground for the mitigation of the sentence in this case, but it is induced to do so in consideration of the foregoing recommendation, and the hope that if the accused is now saved the disgrace of a dishonorable expulsion from the Service he will take good care not to expose himself to that danger

again. The sentence is mitigated to "Suspension from rank and command for the period of six months, and to the forfeiture of all his pay during that period except \$50 per month, and to confinement at such post or posts in the Department where his company is serving as may be designated by the Department commander from time to time during such suspension."

G. C.-M. O. No. 9, Washington, January 27, 1875.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at the camp of the Indian Territory Expedition, on the Washita, Texas, Nov. 30, 1874, pursuant to S. O. No. 164, Headquarters Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kas., Oct. 12, 1874, and of which Assistant Surgeon W. E. Waters, U. S. Army, is president, was arraigned and tried: Captain John A. Irwin, Sixth Cavalry. Charge I—"Drunk on duty, in violation of the 45th Article of War." Specification—Being on duty in command of Company D, Sixth Cavalry, on an expedition against hostile Indians, was found drunk. Charge II—"Conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman." Specification—Did engage in a drunken carousal, and when visited by the officer of the day and requested to desist making said noises, replied profanely and insultingly. Having been lawfully placed in arrest by order of his commanding officer, threatened to shoot him. Charge III—"Disrespect toward his commanding officer, in violation of the 6th Article of War." Specification—Behaved himself with contempt and disrespect toward his commanding officer. Charge IV—"Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline." Specification—Threatened the life of Major Charles E. Compton, Sixth Cavalry. All Sept. 24, 1874. Accused pleaded not guilty to all. He was found guilty with verbal exceptions to specifications to the second and fourth Charges. The first charge and specification were thrown out. And sentenced "To be dismissed the service."

In conformity with the 65th of the Rules and Articles of War, the proceedings of the General Court-martial in the foregoing case of Captain John A. Irwin, Sixth Cavalry, have been forwarded to the Secretary of War for the action of the President of the United States. The Department Commander, in transmitting the record, makes the following remarks on the proceedings: "The action of the court in throwing out the first charge and its specification is disapproved. The specification to this charge alleges that on the 24th of September, 1874, the accused was found drunk while on duty in command of Company D, Sixth Cavalry, the said company being at the time engaged in an expedition against hostile Indians. The nature of this service and the safety of the command certainly constitutes this a duty within the meaning of the 45th Article of War; but if the court had any doubt of that fact, it was competent to find the accused guilty of a criminal disorder under the 99th Article of War. The action of the court absolutely legalizes drunkenness under such circumstances, to the total subversion of discipline. With this exception, the proceedings, findings, and sentence are approved." The proceedings are approved, excepting the action of the court upon the first charge, as to which the above comments are concurred in. The findings and sentence are approved. Captain John A. Irwin, Sixth Cavalry, ceases to be an officer of the Army from the date of this order.

G. C.-M. O. No. 10, Washington, January 27, 1875.—Before a General Court-martial which convened at the camp of the Indian Territory Expedition on the Washita, Texas, Dec. 2, 1874, pursuant to S. O. No. 164, Headquarters Department of the Missouri, Fort Leavenworth, Kas., Oct. 12, 1874, and of which Assistant Surgeon W. E. Waters, U. S. Army, is president, was arraigned and tried: First Lieutenant John W. Chickering, Sixth Cavalry. Charge—"Drunk on duty, in violation of the 45th Article of War." Specification—Having been detailed and on duty as officer of the day of the First Cavalry Battalion of an expedition against hostile Indians, was found drunk, 26, 1874. The accused pleaded "Not Guilty." He was found guilty of the specification and charge, and sentenced "To be cashiered."

In conformity with the 65th of the Rules and Articles of War, the proceedings of the General Court-martial in the foregoing case of First Lieutenant John W. Chickering, Sixth Cavalry, have been forwarded to the Secretary of War for the action of the President of the United States. The proceedings, findings, and sentence are approved. First Lieutenant John W. Chickering, Sixth Cavalry, ceases to be an officer of the Army from the date of this order.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY.

W. T. Sherman, General of the Army of the United States.
Colonel W. D. Whipple, Assistant Adjutant-General.

1. The Quartermaster's Department will furnish Corporal Harry B. Price, Company B, Nineteenth Infantry, on furlough without means to rejoin his station, transportation from St. Louis, Mo., to Fort Larned, Kas., the station of his Company, the cost of which will be charged against Corporal Price on the next muster and pay roll of his Company. (S. O. No. 9, February 18.)

2. The following named officers, recently promoted, will proceed to join the regiments to which their promotions carry them respectively: Col. Frank Wheaton, Second Infantry, Department of the South; Major Henry M. Lazelle, First Infantry, Department of Dakota. (Ibid.)

3. The leave of absence granted Assistant Surgeon J. O. Skinner, by S. O. No. 4, Headquarters Department of the Columbia, 1875, and extended one month by S. O. No. 7, c. a., Headquarters Division of the Pacific, is further extended two months. (Ibid.)

The following transfers in the Third Artillery are announced: Captain Lorenzo Lorain, from Company I to Company A, vice Captain John R. Myrick, from Company A to Company I. Captain Lorain will report for duty with his Company at the Artillery School, May 1, 1875, when Captain Myrick will proceed to join his proper station. (S. O. No. 10, February 19.)

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

Lieut.-Gen. P. H. Sheridan: Hdq'r's New Orleans, La.
DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF.

Colonel W. H. Emory: Headquarters, New Orleans, La.

Third Infantry.—First Lieutenant Thomas S. Wallace was February 11 relieved from duty with the troops in New Orleans and ordered to rejoin his company at Jackson Barracks, La.

DEPARTMENT OF DAKOTA

Brig.-General Alfred H. Terry: Headquarters, St. Paul, Minn.

First Infantry.—Official information has been received at Department Headquarters from the Adjutant-General of the Army of the following promotions of officers of the First Infantry, serving in this command, viz: Major O. A. Mack, now on duty in the War Department to be Lieutenant-Colonel of the Twenty-first Infantry, December 15, 1875, vice Wheaton promoted to the Second Infantry. Captain H. M. Lazelle, Eighth Infantry, to be Major, December 15, 1874, vice Mack promoted.

Seventh Infantry.—A General Court-martial is appointed to meet at Fort Shaw, M. T., March 1. The following officers of this regiment were detailed for the court: Colonel John Gibbon; Captains C. C. Rawn, William Logan; First Lieutenants C. A. Coolidge, Daniel Robinson, G. H. Wright, W. L. English; Second Lieutenants H. A. Irgens, C. A. Woodruff, J. T. Van Orsdale, W. St. C. Long. First Lieutenant A. H. Jackson, Judge-Advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI.

Brigadier-General John Pope: Headquarters, Fort Leavenworth.

Payment of Troops.—Major Frank Bridgman, Paymaster, U. S. Army, was February 16 ordered to pay the troops stationed at Chicago, Ill., and, on completion of this payment, proceed to the Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., the Cavalry Depot, St. Louis, and Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for the purpose of paying the troops stationed at those points to February 28, 1875. Upon completion of this duty Major Bridgman will proceed to the Camp near Cheyenne and Arapahoe Agency, I. T., for the purpose of paying the troops stationed at that point to February 28, 1875.

Major E. H. Brooke, Paymaster, U. S. Army, was ordered to proceed February 16 direct to Camp Supply, I. T., paying the troops at that post, that have not already been paid, to December 31, 1874. On the completion of this duty Major Brooke will proceed to the Camp on the North Fork of Red river, Texas, paying the troops at that point to the 28th of February, 1875; returning, he will pay the troops at Camp Supply, I. T., Forts Dodge, Larned, Riley, Hayes, Wallace, Lyon, and Leavenworth to February 28, 1875. In proceeding from Fort Larned to Fort Riley, Major Brooke will travel via Topeka.

Major J. B. M. Potter, Paymaster, U. S. Army, was February 15 ordered to pay the troops stationed at Santa Fe, N. M., and, on completion of this payment, proceed to Forts Union, N. M., and Garland, C. T., for the purpose of paying the troops stationed at those points to February 28, 1875, making his first payment as soon after the 3rd of March as possible. Major W. H. Johnston, Paymaster, U. S. Army, was same date ordered to proceed from Santa Fe, N. M., to Forts Craig, Tulerosa, McRae, Bayard, Selden, Stanton, and Wingate, and to Ojo Caliente, N. M., for the purpose of paying the troops stationed at those points to February 28, 1875, making his first payment as soon after the 3rd of March as possible.

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE.

Brigadier-General E. O. C. Ord: Headquarters, Omaha, Neb.

Third Cavalry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort McPherson, Neb., February 16. The following officers of this regiment were detailed for the court: Major N. A. M. Dudley; Captains Charles Meinhold, Gerald Russell; First Lieutenants Oscar Elting, Albert D. King. Second Lieutenant James F. Simpson, Judge-Advocate.

Twenty-third Infantry.—The Cheyenne (Wyoming Territory) Leader of Feb. 15 contains the following: A shocking case of suicide at Fort Russell, occurred on Saturday evening at seven o'clock. Lieutenant George Geddes Smith, Twenty-third Infantry, deliberately blew his brains out with a revolver. Deceased had been laboring under mental depression for a couple of weeks, and the dreadful act terminating his life, is attributed to the result of this depression. He was a young man of fine talents, and had many friends in and out of his regiment. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in the Twenty-third Infantry, October 1, 1873. He had served in the Navy prior to this, with an honorable record. The remains will be buried today at the post cemetery with military honors.

Medical Department.—The commanding officer of Camp Robinson was directed February 16 to send Sergeant John A. Parry, G. Ninth Infantry, to report to the commanding officer of Fort Laramie for examination by Assistant Surgeon Albert Hartsuff, U. S. Army, as to qualifications and fitness for the position of Hospital Steward, U. S. Army.

Fort Bridger.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Bridger, W. T., February 24.

Assistant Surgeon Charles Smart, U. S. Army, and the following officers of the Fourth Infantry were detailed for the court: Captains Charles G. Bartlett, William S. Collier, William H. Bisbee; First Lieutenants Thomas F. Quinn, Patrick H. Breslin; Second Lieutenant John Scott. First Lieutenant George O. Webster, Adjutant, Judge-Advocate.

The Grasshopper Sufferers.—Upon the completion of the duties upon which they are now engaged, the following named officers will proceed, via Omaha, to the places set opposite their respective names, to enroll the families of grasshopper sufferers in those localities, delaying en route at Department Headquarters for further instructions, viz: First Lieutenant Christopher T. Hall, Second Cavalry; Dickinson county, Iowa. Second Lieutenant John H. Coale, Second Cavalry; Emmet county, Iowa. Second Lieutenant William F. Norris, Ninth Infantry; Kosuth county, Iowa. Second Lieutenant Charles H. Heyl, Twenty-third Infantry; Palo Alto county, Iowa.

Camp Robinson.—The members of Company D, Third Cavalry, held a meeting in their quarters at Camp Robinson, Neb., on the evening of February 4, 1875, for the purpose of returning a vote of thanks to Acting Asst. Surgeon John Ridgely, U. S. Army, when the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, On the 8th day of January, 1875, while returning from a scout to Elk Creek, Dakota Territory, this company was caught in a severe storm, when every man of the command was frozen, a large portion of them severely; and

Whereas, After the company arrived at this post Captain Henry and thirty-eight of the enlisted men of his company were thrown upon the hands of the post surgeon, this at a time when he was very poorly provided with hospital accommodations, having to use tents for a hospital; but through the skillful and efficient treatment administered by him he has brought us all safely through, when it was fully believed that in many cases amputation would have to be resorted to, to save life. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we each and every man tender our heartfelt gratitude to Acting Assistant Surgeon John Ridgely, U. S. Army, for the unrelenting attention and humane treatment received at his hands.

Resolved, That Acting Assistant Surgeon John Ridgely, U. S. Army, be furnished with a copy of this preamble and resolutions, and that a copy be sent to each of the editors of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL and Cheyenne Leader for publication.

JOHN KNOX, Secretary.

JAMES BOLING, Chairman.

The following is the reply of Doctor Ridgely to the above:

CAMP ROBINSON, NEB., February 6, 1875.
With feelings of profound gratification I return my sincere thanks to the members of Company D, Third Cavalry, for the very flattering language with which they represent my professional services to them. Duty and humanity demanded of me no less than I did, though the earnest terms in which they have acknowledged the value of my services are extremely pleasing to me. Very respectfully, etc.
JOHN RIDGELY,
Acting Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army.

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS.

Brigadier-Gen. C. C. Augur: Headquarters, San Antonio, Texas.

Medical Department.—A. A. Surgeon C. W. Knight, U. S. Army, was February 9 ordered to Fort Clark, Texas, relieving A. A. Surgeon D. S. Smart, U. S. Army, who on being relieved by A. A. Surgeon C. W. Knight, U. S. Army, will proceed to Fort Griffin, Texas, reporting for temporary duty to accompany troops to the supply camp.

Ninth Cavalry.—The General Court-martial of which Colonel Edward Hatch, was president, was February 10 dissolved.

Ringgold Barracks.—A General Court-martial was ordered to convene at Ringgold Barracks, Texas, February 23. Detail for the court: Major James F. Wade, Ninth Cavalry; Captains Andrew Sheridan, F. M. Crandal, Twenty-fourth Infantry; Assistant Surgeon A. B. Campbell, Medical Department; Captain J. N. Morgan, Twenty-fourth Infantry; First Lieutenant L. H. Rucker, R. Q. M., Ninth Cavalry. First Lieutenant J. S. Loud, Adjutant, Ninth Cavalry, Judge-Advocate.

Ninth Infantry.—Captain G. B. Russell, A. A. Inspector-General of the Department, was February 10 ordered to proceed on public business to Denison, Fort Richardson and Fort Griffin, via Luling; on the completion thereof to return to Department Headquarters.

Fourth Cavalry.—Leave of absence for thirty days, on surgeon's certificate of disability, was February 10 granted Major A. E. Latimer (Fort Clark, Texas.)

First Lieutenant D. A. Irwin, Fourth Cavalry, having reported at Department Headquarters, was February 6 ordered to Fort Concho, Texas, reporting upon his arrival to the commanding officer for temporary duty.

First Lieutenant H. W. Lawton, R. Q. M., Fourth Cavalry, after turning over all his property to First Lieutenant D. A. Irwin, Fourth Cavalry, was ordered February 8 to proceed to San Antonio, reporting in person at Department Headquarters.

Payment of Troops.—Major E. D. Judd, Paymaster, U. S. Army, will, after making the 31st December, 1874, payment, remain at Fort Sill, I. T., and pay the troops at that post on their 28th February, 1875, muster.

Major E. J. Judd, Paymaster, U. S. Army, will, after paying on the 28th February muster, at Fort Sill, I. T., proceed (via Denison, Texas) to Forts Richardson and Griffin, Texas, and pay the troops at those posts on the 28th February muster.

Eleventh Infantry.—First Lieutenant William Hoffman was February 8 ordered to proceed to San Antonio, taking with him all instruments, materials, and maps belonging to the Engineer Department, and all his maps and notes of last year's scout, reporting upon his arrival to the Assistant Adjutant-General of the Department.

Leave of absence for thirty days, on surgeon's certificate of disability, was February 8 granted Lieutenant Colonel George P. Buell, Eleventh Infantry (Fort Griffin, Texas.)

Twenty-fourth Infantry.—A General Court-martial was ordered to convene at Fort McIntosh, Texas, Fe-

bruary 23. The following officers of this regiment were detailed for the court: Captain C. C. Hood; First Lieutenant M. W. Saxton; Second Lieutenants E. S. Beacom, F. H. Mills, J. J. Cane. First Lieutenant B. M. Custer, Judge-Advocate.

Captain Lewis Johnson, Twenty-fourth Infantry, was directed Feb. 13 to proceed to Denison, Texas, and join his company.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Hdq'r's, Louisville, Ky.

DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.

Major-General I. McDowell: Headquarters, Louisville, Kentucky

Nashville, Tenn.—A correspondent under date of February 16, writes: A grand celebration of Washington's birthday has been projected in Nashville and the boys in blue, having been invited by the City Council to participate, will be represented by General Pennypacker, commanding post, and the officers and men of Companies F, G, and Band, Sixteenth Infantry. The military are very popular here, and their removal would be generally regretted. General Pennypacker and Captain Richards especially have won the friendship and esteem of the community. Dr. W. D. Wolverton, Assistant Surgeon, U. S. Army, represents the Medical Department. Captain L. C. Oberman, Engineer Corps, is quartered in the city, and is in charge of the Cumberland river improvement. A Sergeant and two men are stationed here in the interest of "Old Probabilities," but how much that has had to do with the fine weather lately, we leave to Congress.

Pay Department.—The leave of absence for ten days, granted Major H. B. Reese, Paymaster, U. S. Army, from Department Headquarters, was February 16 extended seven days.

Medical Department.—Hospital Steward Hugh H. Lyons, U. S. Army, was February 17 relieved from duty at Department Headquarters, and ordered to Fort Macon, N. C., for duty.

Eighteenth Infantry.—Leave of absence for ten days was February 17 granted Second Lieutenant C. H. Cabaniss, Jr. (Columbia, S. C.)

Sixteenth Infantry.—First Lieutenant Merritt Barber was ordered February 13 to proceed to comply with the terms of a subpoena, directing him to appear as a witness, on the 2d proximo, before the Circuit Court of the United States at Louisville, Ky.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC.

Major-General W. S. Hancock: Hdq'r's, New York.

Officers Registered.—The following officers were registered at Headquarters Military Division of the Atlantic, for the week ending February 23, 1875: Captain D. P. Heap, Engineer Corps, First Lieutenant J. E. Sawyer, Fifth Artillery; Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Perry, U. S. Army; Major G. K. Warren, Engineer Corps; First Lieutenant Edward Davis, Third Artillery; Colonel R. S. MacKenzie, Fourth Cavalry.

Twenty-third Infantry.—The Secretary of War has designated this regiment to be armed with the Springfield rifles, calibre 45, with Trowel bayonets and Intrenching Tools, and the commanders of Companies C, E, and G, are ordered to prepare and forward requisitions for the arms in question, and for Trowel Bayonet Scabbards; also for the necessary ammunition, not to exceed 250 rounds per arm.

Commissary of Subsistence.—Leave of absence for one month was February 20 granted Colonel Marcus D. L. Simpson, Assistant Commissary-General of Subsistence (New York City).

Third Artillery.—The detachment of Company M, Third Artillery, at David's Island, was ordered February 19 to proceed, without delay, in charge of the non-commissioned officer with it, to Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H., and report for duty to the company commander.

Leave of absence for twenty days, to take effect upon the final adjournment of General Court-martial, was February 18 granted Captain Edward R. Warner, Third Artillery (Fort Wadsworth, N. Y. H.)

Fortress Monroe.—The Norfolk Landmark of January 27 says: A children's party was given at Fortress Monroe on the seventh anniversary of the birthday of Miss Addie Roberts. The invitations were issued a week previous. Including the children, their parents, and other invited guests, there were present over one hundred persons. *La Fille de Regiment*, the daughter of the hostess, assisted by her fair cousin, Miss Parry, as Cinderella, received the company. Miss Tidball, as Mother Hubbard, with her serious face and cunning dress, afforded much amusement. Miss Myrick, Miss De Witt, and Miss Katie Parry as the Morning Star, Miss Benjamin as Bo-Peep, and Miss Mary Myrick as Rosebud, were exceedingly pretty. Miss Bodell, whose dress was perfect, personated Snow. Miss Echerson as the Bohemian Girl, was dressed very handsomely. Miss Lodor, of Fort Monroe, and Miss Miller, of Norfolk, were lovely as Flower Girls. Miss Smith as the Milk Maid, and her sister as Dolly Varden, were dressed most becomingly. The Misses Moody appeared in appropriate costumes as Gipsy Fortune-Tellers. One of the prettiest children at the party, Miss Smith, daughter of the Doctor, appeared as a Shepherdess. Miss Meacham, as a Roman Peasant Girl, was very beautiful. The boys were all handsomely dressed: Master Leodor as an Italian brigand, Master DeWitt as captain of the base-ball club, Master Kimberly as Hamlet, and his brother as a Highlander, Master Meacham as "Little Boy Blue," Masters Phoebe and Bodell as zouaves, Master Curry as Prince Arthur, and his brother a Count, Master Anderson as "Little Jack Homer" with his Christmas pie, Master Baylor as a clown, whose antics caused much amusement, Master Piper as an English sailor

with the name of his ship, *Addie*, on the band of his hat, and his brother as a Highlander. This was the first party of the kind ever given at Fortress Monroe, and will doubtless be long remembered by the little ones as an occasion of great merriment and enjoyment.

Fort Monroe.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Fort Monroe, Va., February 23. Detail for the court: Captains Richard Lodor, Fourth Artillery; Edward R. Warner, Third Artillery; First Lieutenants Edward D. Wheeler, First Artillery; Alonzo E. Miltimore, First Artillery; George A. Thurston, Third Artillery; Harry R. Anderson, Fourth Artillery; Second Lieutenant William B. Homer, Fifth Artillery. Second Lieutenant Benjamin H. Randolph, Third Artillery, Judge-Advocate.

MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC.

Major-Gen. J. M. Schofield: Hdqrs San Francisco, Cal.

Medical Department.—The leave of absence for one month on surgeon's certificate of disability, granted Assistant Surgeon Bolivar Knickerbocker, U. S. Army, from Headquarters Department of the Columbia, January 30, 1875, was February 10 extended one month.

A. A. Surgeon W. L. Newlands, U. S. Army, was February 8 ordered to report to Lieutenant Clarence Deems, Fourth Artillery, as medical officer of his command to Fort Yuma, on the steamer *Neuborn* leaving San Francisco on the 10th of February. Upon completing this duty he will return to this station and report to the medical director of the Department of California.

Inspector-General's Department.—Lieutenant-Colonel Roger Jones, Assistant Inspector-General, was ordered February 8 to Los Angeles, Cal., and such other points in Southern Arizona, as he may find it necessary to visit, to carry out instructions received from the War Department. Upon completion of this duty he will return to San Francisco.

Fourth Cavalry.—Major Charles H. Morgan was February 8 ordered to Fort Yuma, Cal., and report from that place to the commanding officer of the Department of Arizona for special duty.

Lieutenant Deems, Fourth Artillery, after turning over to the commanding officer of Fort Yuma the enlisted men of his command for companies in the Department of Arizona, and discharging the special duty intrusted to him, will return with his guard to his proper station.

First Cavalry.—Leave of absence for two months was February 8 granted Captain Camillo C. Carr, First Cavalry, Camp Halleck, Nevada, with permission to go beyond the limits of the Military Division of the Pacific.

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Twelfth Infantry.—Leave of absence for twenty days was February 6 granted First Lieutenant James Haloran.

Medical Department.—Assistant Surgeon S. A. Storow, U. S. Army, in addition to his duties as Post Surgeon at Alcatraz Island, Cal., was ordered February 13 to attend the sick of the detachment from the Fourth Artillery stationed at Yerba Buena Island, Cal., during the temporary absence from that post of A. A. Surgeon W. L. Newlands, U. S. Army.

Alcatraz Island.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Alcatraz Island, Cal., February 16. Detail for the court: Captains John Mendenhall, Fourth Artillery; Richard C. Parker, Twelfth Infantry; John Eagan, Fourth Artillery; James W. Riley, Ordnance Corps; John M. Norvell, Twelfth Infantry; First Lieutenants S. W. Taylor, E. S. Chapin, Fourth Artillery. First Lieutenant Walter Howe, Fourth Artillery, Judge-Advocate.

First Cavalry.—A General Court-martial was appointed to meet at Benicia Barracks, Cal., February 16. The following officers of this regiment were detailed for the court: Lieutenant-Colonel W. L. Elliott; Captain Thomas McGregor; Second Lieutenants Alex. O. Brodie, Reg't Adjt., Thomas T. Knox, Reg't Q. M., Herbert E. Tutherly. First Lieutenant Max Wesendorff, Judge-Advocate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

Brig-Gen. Oliver O. Howard: Headquarters, Portland, Oregon.

Medical Department.—Leave of absence for one month on surgeon's certificate of disability, with permission to leave the limits of the Department, was January 30 granted Assistant Surgeon Bolivar Knickerbocker (Fort Stevens).

Assistant Surgeon Bolivar Knickerbocker, assigned to temporary duty at Fort Vancouver, was January 23 relieved from the assignment at Fort Colville, previously directed and assigned to duty at Fort Stevens, relieving Assistant Surgeon Augustus W. Wiggins, to enable him to comply with orders from Adjutant-General's Office, directing him to report in person to the president of the Army Medical Board, New York City.

Sitka.—We have received from Sitka the first and second numbers of the *Alaska Bulletin*, a neat little four page paper printed on a writing sheet. They are dated January 5 and 20, the publication of the paper being semi-monthly. The proprietors are given as Wm. E. Jones and Fred. C. Fratz. A "History of Alaska" in twelve parts, by an author whose name is not given, is begun in the first number. This account of our delightful Arctic territory is written in a humorous tone which makes it readable enough, but interferes with our traditional conceptions of historical writing. We select, as most interesting, examples of the "Local Matters."

New Year's day has come and gone, and has proven the quietest within our recollection, certainly the quietest in this town, since its occupation by the Americans. This with a population of some 400 persons, a large proportion of whom are miners and soldiers, always reputed reckless, devil-may-care specimens of humanity, and some hundreds of Indians mingled with them all the day. Not a drunk,

not a brawl, nothing disgraceful to record. In the evening some miners, who have made their temporary homes in the London House, celebrated the advent of Father Time's Newborn by a social party, which proved to be a well conducted and much enjoyed affair for the participants.

January 2, two squaws and a female inmate of the Double-Decker, who had for some days previous been the guests of our local U. S. Hotel, for drunken and other unlawful conduct, concluded to dispense with the hospitalities of that institute; and having signified their attention to the boss, they were kindly furnished with our brass band to escort them becomingly up the street. The well-pleased enthusiastic musicians followed the wake of the fading beauties, straining their lungs to the utmost to treat their dear departing ones and casual spectators to the enlivening tune of the "Rogue's March."

Moral.—Ladies, don't get boozy in Sitka, unless you are prepared to parade the town "the observed of all observers."

The manager of our Minstrel Troupe have assured us that they will perform but twice more this season; probably about the middle of this and the beginning of the next month. The entertainments will be as good, if not better, than any preceding ones. All ought to go and see them. Those who can't go, should send their money.

Though eight months' arrears are due the Russian pensioners here from their government, only four months' were received by them per last steamer. Still "small favors thankfully received," and better that much than none at all.

Born.—Jan. 2. To the wife of Peter Cherenoff, a daughter.

Artillery target practice by the garrison is in active progress. In our next we shall give details.

October 24 the steamer *California* arrived in this port, and another mail steamer should then have been here about November 24. That day came and many more succeeded, but vainly did we strain our eyes, from the castle's lofty tower, to catch a glimpse of any incoming vessel. None came until the "Gussie Telfair" paid us a visit December 19. Only about two months between mails!

We are willing to make large allowance for bad weather, and the other customary excuses, yet even then, with the greatest liberality compatible with keeping an eye to business, a matter of at least twenty days remains unaccounted for.

To-morrow, about twenty Indians from this village will paddle their canoe to the Hooch-noo Isle, there to procure some Saiwash delicacies not to be had at Sitka.

About the first of December last, the Chilcat Indians sent quite a numerous deputation to the Sitka village, to arrange for the payment of a proper indemnity for one of their women accidentally killed by a Sitka Indian, months before. They had their argument on the beach at their village, where a great many points were argued pro and con, but a suitable price was finally agreed upon, to be paid in blankets, muskets, and what not all, and the deputation was then treated to a pow-wow of the grandest kind, before they started on their return homeward.

The town of Sitka has once more undergone the ordeal of a census—the last preceding one having been taken about two years ago. The Post Quartermaster has during the past month collected the necessary statistics, and in our next issue we will give a detailed statement of the same, together with the number of buildings, stores, tables of occupations, race, religion, ages, etc., as also the amount of live stock about town, and an account of experiments in local agriculture during the past year. We here briefly state that the number of inhabitants was found to be as follows: Civilians, 353; soldiers, 105; officers, 7; officers' and soldiers' families, 37; total, 502. The above does not include the Indians living at Sitka, their villages being divided from the town by a stockade.

Alaska Directory.—Military.—Sitka.—Captain J. B. Campbell, Commanding Officer and commanding Company F; Captain E. Field, commanding Company F; First Lieutenant E. P. Newkirk, Company C (temporarily); First Lieutenant W. R. Quinn, Company L, A. A. Q. M. and A. C. S.; Second Lieutenant V. A. Goddard, Company F, Post Adjutant and Treasurer; Assistant Surgeon J. A. Fitz Gerald, Post Surgeon; A. A. Surgeon F. S. Sterling, Companies F and L, Fourth Artillery. Wrangel.—Second Lieutenant A. B. Dyer, on temporary duty with 11 men from Sitka.

In expectation of hot times to come next summer, the garrison is investing in large shares of ice. The pond is being robbed remorselessly, to fill up a deep gap in the Government icehouse.

Personal.—Will that young man who wears diamonds, and a ghastly grim smile, and has mistakenly hung his head too high, come down a peg or two, and oblige.

A HOST OF ADMIRERS.

Companies F and L, Fourth Artillery, too, had each a select party in their mess halls, whereby Company L especially did their utmost to please the eye by tasteful decorations with flags, evergreens, and warlike weapons of divers shapes. This latter wound up the Carnival, on the night of Friday, and we are again in our customary gloom, all the more so, because now we are doubtful whether to-day ought to be dated January 8 or 20. We do wish Rip Van Winkle would wake up and help us to a decision.

(Correspondence of the Topeka Commonwealth.)

COLONEL MILES' EXPEDITION.

FORT SILL, Jan. 23, 1875.

GENERAL MILES, with a portion of his command, reached this post yesterday, after a hard march of twenty-five days. The object in coming here is to obtain supplies. On the 28th of December he left camp on the Canadian, west of Adobe Walls, with Company K of the Sixth Cavalry, Company D of the Fifth Infantry, one Gatling gun and twenty-five wagons, with the view of inflicting one more blow upon the hostile Indians, and making a final effort to secure those innocent captives, the German sisters, now in their possession. The route from the Canadian was almost due south, to the Tule, the north branch of Red river, and across the Staked Plains, a distance of over one hundred miles. Here the course was changed eastward, a part of the command going down the Tule to the mouth, and a portion following Canon Blanco, another tributary of Red river, to its junction with the main stream, and down that to the old crossing of August, where the forces again united, camping on General Miles' old battle ground. To make a thorough search of the country, and find the Indians if they could be found, the command again split, Lieutenant Baldwin, with Company D, Fifth Infantry, and his invincible scouts, being ordered to go to the head of Salt Fork and scour that stream, while General Miles, with the balance of the command, proceeded down Battle Creek, scouting the country to the right and left for fifty miles. After making a careful examina-

tion of the country passed over, the troops again came together at Elm Fork, the command being reinforced at this point by Company I, Sixth Cavalry, and Company C, Fifth Infantry, one howitzer and twenty-five wagons loaded with supplies, the whole in charge of Colonel Compton.

By this time some trails of Indians were discovered, and General Miles determined to follow them so long as he had a man or a hoof left. The trains all led in the direction of Fort Sill, so taking one himself and ordering Compton to take another, they were pursued to this post, reaching here one day in advance of the troops. The Indians driven in by General Miles were Comanches and Kiowas, and numbered four or five hundred men, women and children. They were in a terribly demoralized state, almost destitute of clothing and food. They say they have been run so hard by the soldiers that they have had no chance to kill any meat for their families. They are now at their agency where they are likely to remain for an indefinite period, and content themselves with Government rations.

This march, made in the dead of winter, and over a country never ventured upon by whites at this season, will be put down as one of the most remarkable on record as illustrating the hardships and privations men are capable of enduring. The distance travelled is over five hundred miles, and when the command returns to the cantonment on the North Fork, even if it goes by the most direct route, the entire distance travelled will be more than seven hundred miles. The weather was cold and stormy throughout—small parties were often compelled to sleep on the bald prairie with no shelter save the broad canopy of heaven, yet there was no murmuring and no casualties. Such patient endurance of hardships and such cheerful compliance with orders are worthy of the highest commendation.

The command will remain here for a few days to get supplies, and then return to the cantonment on the North Fork, going by way of the Washita, when General Miles will perhaps take leave of the field, and this at a time when his services would be rendered most useful. I am not acquainted with the reasons that have produced the change, but I know that General Miles' highest ambition was and is to remain in the field as long as there is a hostile Indian off his reservation.

As previously stated in this correspondence, Colonel James Biddle, of the Sixth Cavalry, will command the troops, four companies of cavalry and four of infantry, that are to constitute the cantonment of the North Fork. They will remain here until May, when they will be relieved by troops from the Department of Texas.

Lieutenant Baldwin will also go in, taking with him his company of scouts. These men have taken a conspicuous part in all the movements of this expedition, and have ever been foremost in the various engagements with the enemy. Their heroism in individual combats with greatly superior numbers has been made the subject of special commendation by the commanding officers; their long rides through a country swarming with hostile savages, often going for two and three days without food or sleep, never failing to deliver their messages, and only one of the entire number ever being hurt, are matters of special pride to themselves and to those who appreciate genuine grit.

I have learned upon my arrival here that the whole number of warriors yet out, Kiowas, Comanches and Cheyennes, will not exceed five hundred, and it is now well known that they are all anxious to come in. A party of friendly Indians will leave here in a few days to induce them to come in. A party of Cheyennes are already out on the same errand, and the prospects now are that the troops will have very little to do next summer. They are not in a condition to protract the war, even if they had the disposition.

This is one of the largest and finest forts west of the Missouri. It is built of stone, and is made to accommodate ten companies. It was established in January, 1869, by General Sheridan. It is garrisoned at present by six companies of the Tenth Cavalry, colored, and three companies of the Twenty-fifth Infantry. Colonel Davidson, better known on the frontier as Black Jack, is in command. The Tenth is soon to be relieved by Colonel McKenzie's regiment, the Fourth Cavalry, now at Fort Concho, Texas.

There are fifty Indians representing the different hostile tribes, held here as prisoners. Nineteen of them are in irons. They answer to their names at every guard mount and nobody is allowed to have communication with them. A more stolid, dirty, meaner looking set of scoundrels were never drawn into line. They are to be tried by the military, and will undoubtedly pay the penalty of their crimes on the scaffold. Among them are several prominent chiefs, Woman's Heart, Kill Chief and White Horse.

I will return to Supply by way of the Cheyenne agency and may have occasion to send you some notes announcing the workings of that institution. T.

FORT SILL, I. T., Jan. 24, 1875.

The sight of the Wichita mountains was a glorious relief from the terrible monotony of the Staked Plains, which are almost unendurable at any time, but particularly so in the winter. Over this bleak, barren waste, through wind and storm, with hardly any cessation, the command travelled for six long, weary days, the all-absorbing question with every man in the expedition being how to keep from freezing. Buffalo chips were not to be had, and the little wood that was hauled along in the wagons was our only fuel. Fortunately no one was seriously frozen, and the great Llano Estacado were parted with, with the utmost satisfaction to all hands. From the headwaters of Red river to the Wichita mountains, the country is rough and broken, and almost destitute of vegetation. The soil is a kind of red clay, the only product of

which seems to be musquit brush. The Creek bottoms are narrow and almost devoid of timber. The water generally is bad, being a compound of gypsum, alkali and salt. This country can never be made to subserve the purposes of agriculture, and it has very few inducements for stock-raising.

The country to the north and south of the mountains is altogether different. It is like arriving from a desert to a paradise. The mountains proper are about fifty miles from east to west, and forty from north to south. Their greatest altitude, I should think, does not exceed six hundred feet above the surface of the surrounding country. Their surface is rocky and I could discern no timber on them from the south side. Numerous small streams of pure water gush out from either side. These streams are all supplied with an abundance of timber—walnut, oak, hackberry, hickory and other varieties. The country breaks off into rolling prairie, and is covered with a rich growth of vegetation, indicating unusual fertility.

The present has been an uncommonly severe winter, but I am told that the climate generally is mild and equable, and free from malaria. When this vast domain is opened to settlement, as it will be sooner or later, I know of no better place to locate a claim than in the vicinity of Fort Sill.

The post is located on Cache Creek, near the eastern base of the Wichita mountains. The nearest railroad station is Caddo, 180 miles, on the M. K. and T. It is 75 miles south of the Cheyenne agency. Two tri-weekly stage lines run to Caddo and one to Wichita via Cheyenne agency.

General Miles' command leaves here to-day. He intends to scour the country between this and his late base of operations on the Washita and Canadian, when he will have completed the grandest scout and most thorough examination of this whole vast region, ever made. T.

ARMY AND NAVY BILLS IN CONGRESS.

In the Senate, February 17th, memorials were presented from physicians of Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Connecticut and Minnesota, asking legislation to promote the Medical Corps of the Army. A letter was presented from the Secretary of the Navy, addressed to the chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs, in relation to the Ridgeway Battery.

The Senate Committee on Naval Affairs reported adversely on Senate bill 898, for the relief of Wm. J. Healey, late assistant paymaster, and on Senate bill 1207, to restore Lieutenant George M. McClure to the active list of the Navy, and they were indefinitely postponed.

The committee was also discharged from the further consideration of the following petitions: Of L. J. Draper, late assistant surgeon, asking restoration; of the heirs of the late General Henderson, of the Marine Corps, asking difference of pay between a colonel and brigadier general, from January, 1846, to January, 1851; of John D. Smith, acting assistant surgeon, praying to be placed on the retired list of the Navy; of the widow of the late Lieutenant-Colonel John Gamble, U. S. M. C., praying compensation for capture made by him during the war of 1813 of the *Seringpatam*; of Commander R. L. Law, for restoration to his former position as a captain, next below Captain W. W. Low; of Captain A. C. Rhind for restoration to his former position, next below Captain A. K. Hughes.

Mr. Anthony, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, reported without amendment S. bill 1198, authorizing the President to nominate Henry S. Wetmore, a lieutenant on the retired list of the Navy; also reported a bill (S. 1319) to commission Frederick F. Baur a lieutenant on the retired list of the Navy, on account of wounds received in the line of duty.

Mr. Logan introduced a bill (S. 1322) to establish rules and regulations for the government of the Army of the United States, which was read a second time; referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Joint resolution (H. R. 135) was passed, re-appointing John H. Martindale, of New York, Hugh L. Bond, of Maryland, and Erastus B. Wolcott, of Wisconsin, managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

Messages were received from the House, announcing concurrence in the Senate's amendment to bill (H. R. 3915), to authorize the Secretary of War to permit the extension of Hygeia Hotel, at Fort Monroe; and non-concurrence in Senate amendments to bill (H. R. 3912) to reduce and fix the Adjutant-General's Department of the Army, and asked a Committee of Conference. The committee on the disagreeing votes are Logan, Spencer and Ransom of the Senate, and MacDougall, Donnan and Nesmith of the House.

Mr. Stockton introduced a bill (S. 1326), to authorize the purchase of certain improvements in ordnance and pay for the use of the same heretofore, which was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

In the House, on the 18th inst., Mr. Cason introduced a bill (H. R. 4749), to authorize and direct the Secretary of War to restore George A. Armes to his former rank of captain in the Army, which was read a second time; referred to Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

Joint Resolution (H. R. 156), reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was passed, authorizing the acceptance by Captain C. H. Wells, of the Navy, of the Cross of the Legion of Honor, conferred on him by the President of the French Republic, as evidence of his appreciation of that officer.

In the Senate, on the 19th instant, memorials were presented from physicians and medical societies in South Carolina, Kansas, Florida, and Rhode Island, praying legislation to promote Medical Corps of the Army; and from invalid pensioners for the passage of a bill giving them pension from date of discharge.

The Army Appropriation bill was discussed, and

passed in the House on the 19th instant, with some amendments of it as reported by the Committee on Appropriations.

In line 13, the following words were stricken out: "Nothing, however, in this act shall be considered to diminish the Signal Service, which shall hereafter be maintained as now organized under the Secretary of War," and in lieu thereof the following inserted: "Nothing, however, in this act shall be construed to prevent enlistments for the Signal Service, which shall hereafter be maintained as now organized, and with the line of enlisted men now provided by law."

After line 138, the following was inserted: "Provided further, that the foregoing restrictions shall not apply for the current and next fiscal year to roads where the sole condition of transportation is that the company shall not charge the Government higher rates than they do individually for like transportation, and when the quartermaster-general shall be satisfied that this condition has been faithfully complied with; and *Provided further*, that hereafter when troops or officers change stations the officers' families shall receive transportation over land-grant and subordinate railroads, which shall receive no pay from the United States."

Under the clause for purchase of clothing, the following amendment was agreed to: "Provided, that no part of this sum shall be paid for the use of any patented process for the preservation of clothing from moth or mildew."

The following new paragraph was inserted after the appropriation for Engineer Depot, at Willet's Point: "For torpedo experiments in their application to harbor and land defence, and for instruction of engineer battalion in their preparation and application, \$10,000."

The following clause was added to the bill: "In all contracts for material for any public improvement, the Secretary of War shall give preference to American material, and all labor thereon shall be performed within the jurisdiction of the United States."

In the House, on the 20th inst. Senate bill 769 for the relief of Major J. W. Nichols, paymaster, U. S. A., was passed. It relieves him of the sum of \$4,500 erroneously charged against him.

The House on the 23d inst., passed (Senate bill 1065) for the relief of J. W. Drew, late additional paymaster, also (House bill 4835) for fixing the status of the Quartermaster's Department.

Mr. Hoar introduced a bill (H. R. 4834) to authorize the sale of cadet rifles.

The Senate passed a resolution (House Res.) authorizing the Congressional printer to print the report of Major Powell's expedition in quarto form.

House bill 4441, making appropriations for the Military Academy, was passed by the Senate, on the 23d inst., with amendments. The 1st was in line 10, to insert the following proviso after the end of the paragraph: "For the additional pay of officers and pay of instructors, professors, cadets and musicians," *Provided*, that the President of the United States be authorized to fill any vacancy occurring at said Academy by reason of death, or other cause, of any person appointed by him. The next in line 22, to insert after the word "materials," the words "\$14,500; in line 24, to insert "and" where it first occurs the word "for," and in line 26 to insert after the words men, the words "\$8000 in all"—making that clause read: "For repairs and improvements, timber, etc., etc., and all other similar materials, \$14,500, and for pay of citizen mechanics and labor employed upon repairs and improvements that cannot be done by enlisted men, \$8,000; in all \$22,500."

The Senate on the 23rd inst., passed House bill 4935, in relation to the Quartermaster's Department of the Army. It provides for one quartermaster-general with rank, pay, and emoluments of a brigadier-general; 4 assistant quartermaster-generals with rank, etc., of colonels of cavalry; 8 deputy quartermaster-generals with rank, etc., of lieutenant-colonels of cavalry; 14 quartermasters with rank, etc., of majors of cavalry; 13 assistant quartermasters with rank, etc., of captains of cavalry. No more appointments of military storekeepers in the Quartermaster Department, and grade to cease when vacancies in present incumbents arise by death, resignation, or otherwise. No officer now in service to be reduced in rank or deprived of his commission by reason of any provision in the bill. No officer to be promoted or appointed in excess of the organization prescribed by this act, and repeals so much of Sec. 6, of act of March 3, 1869, as applies to the Quartermasters Department.

The Army appropriation bill was also passed with amendments.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATION BILL.

The following are items of the bill (H. R. 4729), introduced by Mr. Garfield, making appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1876, and for other purposes:

For public printing and binding: For the War Department, \$12,000; Navy Department, \$65,000.

Revenue Cutter Service: For pay of 34 captains, 101 lieutenants, and 63 engineers, and for pay of pilots employed, \$361,300. For rations of same, \$25,583.40. For pay of 860 petty-officers, seamen, cooks, stewards, boys, coal-passers, and firemen, \$283,000. For rations for same, \$98,000. For fuel for 38 vessels, repairs and outfits for same, etc., \$260,000.

For the continuation of the geological and geographical survey of the Territories of the United States, under the Secretary of the Interior, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876; by the first division, under F. V. Hayden, in Colorado and such adjacent portions of Utah and New Mexico as were not explored the preceding year, \$60,000; and by the second division, under J. W. Powell, in Utah, \$20,000; in all \$80,000, to be immediately available. For the preparation and publication of the maps, charts, geological sections,

and other engravings necessary to illustrate the reports of the United States geological and geographical survey of the Territories: by the first division, \$20,000; and by the second division, \$20,000; in all, \$40,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

To enable the Secretary of the Treasury to have the rebel archives and records of captured property examined, and information furnished therefrom for the use of the Government, \$6,000.

For purchasing Miss Ransom's painting of Major-General George H. Thomas on the Battle-Field of Chickamauga, \$10,000. To purchase Carpenter's picture of the Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation, \$25,000.

For every purpose and object necessary for and incident to the continuation of the survey of the Pacific coasts of the United States, with soundings and observations of deep-sea temperatures in the branch of the Japan Stream off, and observations of other currents along, the same coasts; and the preparation, engraving, lithographing, and issuing of charts; the preparation, and publication of the Coast Pilot and other results of the Coast Survey, with the purchase of materials therefor, including compensation of civilians engaged in the work, and pay and subsistence of engineers for the steamers used on those coasts, \$231,000. For every purpose and object necessary for and incident to the continuation of the triangulation of the Coast Survey to form a connection between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts of the United States, and assisting in the State surveys, including compensation of civilians engaged in the work, \$50,000. For repairs and maintenance of the complement of vessels used in the Coast Survey, \$41,000. For continuing the publication of observations, and their discussion, made in progress of the Coast Survey, including compensation of civilians engaged in the work, the publication to be made at the Government Printing Office, \$8,000.

For general expenses of the Coast Survey, in reference to the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts of the United States, \$48,000.

Vessels for the Coast Survey: For construction, equipment, and outfit of one schooner, for the observation of currents along and off the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, and two for inshore work of all kinds along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, \$56,000.

For construction, equipment, and outfit of two small steamers for inshore work of all kinds on the coast of Louisiana and other parts of the Gulf coast, and of one small steamer, for inshore coast-hydrography on the Pacific coast, \$89,000.

For general expenses for the Light-House Establishment, \$1,899,000. For light-houses, fog-signals, and beacons, \$1,446,700.

For Government Hospital for the Insane, \$178,919. Armories and Arsenals: For Rock Island arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois, \$209,500. For Springfield armory, Springfield, Massachusetts, \$20,000. For Benicia arsenal, California, \$100,065.

To enable the Secretary of War to purchase Gatling guns for the armament of fortifications, \$50,000. For conversion and rifling heavy guns, \$75,000. And the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to expend for this purpose an additional sum of \$100,000 out of specific appropriations heretofore made for the forts in the act entitled "An act making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defence for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1876," approved February 10, 1875, to be taken pro rata from the amount appropriated for said forts. And hereafter the chief clerk of the Ordnance Department of the Army shall be held accountable for the ordnance stores and similar material deposited in the museum, and shall receive the compensation of an ordnance storekeeper, and be subject to the same laws and regulations. And the Secretary of War is hereby directed to cause an examination to be made into the condition of the United States arsenals east of the Mississippi River, and to report to the next Congress how many of the same can be sold without interfering with the necessities of the military service, together with an estimate of the amount that can probably be realized from the sale of such of the same whenever such sale shall be directed by Congress.

Signal-office: For observation and report of storms, \$385,000. For completing the construction, and for maintenance, and use of military telegraph-lines on the Indian and Mexican frontiers, and for the connection of military posts and stations, for the better protection of immigration and the frontier settlements from depredations, especially in the State of Texas, the Territories of New Mexico and Arizona, and the Indian Territory, \$88,000: *Provided*, that the Secretary of War be, and he is hereby, authorized to pay the expenses of operating and keeping in repair the said telegraph-lines out of any money received for despatches sent over said lines; any balance remaining after the payment of such expenses to be covered into the Treasury as a miscellaneous receipt; the money received in any one fiscal year to be used only in payment for the expenses of that year. And a full report of the receipts and expenditures in connection with the said telegraph-lines shall be made quarterly to the Secretary of War through the Chief Signal-Officer. And the Chief Signal-Officer shall have the charge and control of said lines of telegraph in the construction, repair, and operation of the same. And so much of this appropriation as may be necessary, not to exceed \$30,000 in all, shall be used in constructing a telegraph-line from Fort Marcy to Fort Bayard, in New Mexico, and from Fort Bayard to Camp Grant, in Arizona: *Provided*, that no money hereby appropriated, or any unexpended balance of former appropriations for the erection of military telegraph-lines, shall be expended upon any line that cannot be completed by such appropriations herein or already made.

For continuation of the survey of northern and north western lakes, \$75,000.

For geographical surveys of the Territories west of

the one hundredth meridian, and for engraving and printing the plates and atlas-sheets accompanying the reports, \$45,000.

For the publication of the official records of the war of the rebellion, both of the Union and of the Confederate armies, \$50,000; which shall be available from and after the passage of this act; and where extra services are performed after office-hours and in addition to other regular duties by the clerks employed upon this work, they shall be paid such reasonable extra compensation therefor as the Secretary of War may determine. For payment of costs and charges of State penitentiaries for the care, clothing, maintenance, and medical attendance of United States military convicts confined in them, \$40,000.

To indemnify the States for expenses incurred by them in enrolling, equipping, and transporting troops for the defence of the United States during the late insurrection, \$250,000. To provide for the payment, under existing laws, for horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service of the United States, \$50,000. And the act entitled "An act to provide for the payment of horses and other property lost or destroyed in the military service of the United States," approved March 3, 1849, is hereby repealed. To pay the claims of the Dakota volunteer forces, \$33,980.30 1-2.

For the payment of expenses incurred by the Territories of Oregon and Washington in the suppression of Indian hostilities therein in 1855-6, \$25,000. For continuing work on the east wing of the building for the State, War, and Navy Departments, \$700,000, to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of War.

For the completion of the military road from the city of Santa Fe to Ferdinandez de Taos, in the Territory of New Mexico, \$6,444.80.

The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated for the purchase of the following sites for forts in the State of Texas, in accordance with the resolutions and recommendations of the board of officers appointed under act of March 3, 1873: Fort Brown, \$25,000; Fort Duncan, \$10,000; Ringgold Barracks, \$10,000.

And the Congressional Printer is hereby authorized to print and bind five thousand additional copies of the Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion; and the Surgeon-General is hereby authorized to continue on duty in his Office the acting assistant surgeons now employed on said history until the end of the next fiscal year.

For the construction of a pedestal for an equestrian statue of Major-General James B. McPherson, on McPherson Square, Washington, \$25,000: *Provided*, That the design of said pedestal shall be approved by the Secretary of War, the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, and the corresponding secretary of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee, or a majority of them.

Navy-yards and Stations: New London, \$40,000; Pensacola, Florida, \$150,000; Mare Island, California, \$200,000; League Island, \$200,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the presiding member of the board of revision of taxes of the city and county of Philadelphia, are created a commission for the purpose of making sale and conveyance of the Philadelphia Navy-yard. The money so received, less the necessary expenses of this commission, shall be paid into the Treasury of the United States, an equal amount to be expended in removing the movable property of the Philadelphia Navy-yard to League Island, and preparing the same for carrying on the business and work of a Navy-yard at that place.

For repairs at the different Navy-yards and stations, and preservation of the same, \$500,000: *Provided*, That no part of this appropriation shall be expended upon the Philadelphia or Washington Navy-yard. To enable the Secretary of the Navy to purchase in accordance with his public bid therefor, the Stevens iron-clad steam-battery, together with expense of removal to the Brooklyn Navy-yard, \$150,000: *Provided*, That said battery, after purchase, shall not be fitted up until a specific appropriation therefor is made, unless in case of warlike emergency. To increase and improve the quarters at the United States Naval Academy \$10,000.

For experiments in testing iron and steel, including the cost of any machine built for such purpose, \$50,000; in addition to \$25,000 in the last Army appropriation, to be expended under direction of a board, to consist of one officer of engineers of the United States Army, one officer of ordnance of the United States Army, one line-officer of the United States Navy, one engineer of the United States Navy, and three civilians who shall be experts.

To enable the Executive Departments of the Government and the Smithsonian Institution to participate in the International Exhibition of 1876, \$505,000, including \$133,000 for War Department, and \$100,000 for Navy Department.

THE LATE COMMANDER WELD N. ALLEN.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Army and Navy Club was called for the purpose of paying tribute to the memory of the late Commander Weld N. Allen, U. S. Navy, Major-General Hancock in the chair. Commander McCrea, U. S. N., was appointed secretary. On motion a committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feeling of the Club. The following resolutions were presented and adopted:

Whereas, It has pleased the Almighty to remove by death our brother officer and member, Commander Weld N. Allen, U. S. Navy: *Resolved*, That in the demise of Commander W. N. Allen the Service has experienced the loss of an officer distinguished for his sterling qualities and devotion to duty; *Resolved*, That though no words of ours can add to the untarnished record he achieved, the Members of the Army and Navy Club deplore his loss, and offer their sincere condolence to the relations of the deceased.

E. P. MCCREA, Commander U. S. Navy,
Secretary.

THE NAVY.

The Editor invites for this department of the JOURNAL all facts of interest to the Navy, especially such as relate to the movement of officers or vessels.

VARIOUS NAVAL ITEMS.

The *Pinta* left New Orleans, 20th February, for Pensacola, Havana and Key West.

The *Kansas* will go from Key West to New Orleans to relieve the *Shawmut*, to be sent elsewhere.

No information has yet reached the Navy Department of the *Swatara* having received the telegraphic order for her to proceed to New York instead of San Francisco. The chances seem to be in favor of her going to San Francisco.

TELEGRAPHIC orders were sent to Yokohama on the 7th inst. for the return of the *Lackawanna* to San Francisco. As it is not likely she would be able to leave before the middle of the month, she cannot be looked for with any certainty before the 20th of March, as she is under sail alone.

The following are the names of the new ships building for the Navy: The large one building at New York is to be called the *Trenton*; the two at Norfolk, the *Huron* and *Galena*; the two at Kittery, the *Essex* and *Enterprise*—those at Chester being iron, of 640 tons, the *Alert*, *Alliance*, and *Ranger*.

The President has approved the joint resolution of Congress authorizing Thomas W. Fitch, passed assistant engineer, United States Navy, to accept a wedding present to his wife, Mrs. Minnie Sherman Fitch.

A Press dispatch from Panama, Feb. 13, says: The survey for a canal route across this part of the Isthmus is making favorable progress under the direction of Commander Lull. A much lower level than that of the railroad has been found, which is only 262 feet. Commander Lull is reported to have said that the result of the survey so far had been more favorable than was expected.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER F. M. GREEN, U. S. Navy, under date of U. S. Surveying Steamer *Fortune*, Kingston, Jamaica, January 29, writes us: Will you do me the favor to correct a paragraph in the JOURNAL of the 16th inst., taken from the Panama *Star* and *Herald*, by stating that to Mr. J. A. Rogers alone is due the credit of designing the admirable transit instruments constructed at the U. S. Hydrographic Office for this vessel?

The *Hartford* is to await at Singapore the arrival of the *Tennessee*, provided it is not later than the 15th of July. She will then return home via the Cape of Good Hope. The *Tennessee* expects to be ready about the 1st of April, and will proceed via the Isthmus of Suez. Should she make a quick passage she may reach Singapore late in June, by which the *Hartford* will take an earlier departure. The latter will probably be a hundred days on the passage, which will bring her to some port on the Atlantic about the middle of October next. Rear Admiral Pennock has been accorded the privilege of returning home in the *Hartford* or by way of California or the Isthmus of Suez.

The following is a report of vessels on the Asiatic station January 13, 1875: *Hartford*, at Shanghai; *Lackawanna*, at Yokohama; *Kearsarge*, left Vladovastok December 16, with scientific party and their instruments, for Nagasaki. After landing this party, she proceeded to Shanghai. The *Monocacy* left Hankow December 29, and arrived at Shanghai January 2, after remaining at Hankow a week. She was sent to Nagasaki and Yokohama. The *Ashuelot* is at Nagasaki. The *Saco*, while at Hong Kong, made a cruise northward to search for the wreck of the Pacific Mail S. S. *Japan*. After her return she proceeded on her cruise to the south. The *Yantic* also made a cruise in search of the wreck; after her return to Hong Kong she proceeded to Canton. The *Palos* is at Tientsin.

COMMANDER EDWARD P. LULL, U. S. Navy, under date of Aspinwall, U. S. of Columbia, February 13, sends the following to the Secretary of the Navy: "I have the honor to inform the Department that the work of the Panama Surveying Expedition is progressing very favorably, and present indications are much better than I had hoped at first. Party No. 1, under Lieutenant E. H. C. Leutze, is locating the feeder for the canal. They have already reached the desired elevation, find abundant water, and are now making the special survey for the dam. Party No. 2, under Lieutenant H. G. O. Colby, is at work locating the proposed line across the summit. The health of the expedition is good."

The Secretary of the Navy in an official letter to the Chairman of the Senate Naval Committee, speaks in high terms of the system of mounting and protecting counterpoise guns, known as the "Ridgway Battery," and he thinks it would be very advantageous to the service if the Department could arm at least one of our iron-clads according to this new system, which he thinks would relieve the vessels from the necessity of carrying heavy turrets and allow the ship to be more heavily armored. He thinks the *Puritan* would be the proper iron-clad to select for the experiment. He asks for \$500,000, and closes by saying that a ship armed in the manner he desires would add very largely to the efficiency of our naval force, and that an appropriation would be an act of wise statesmanship.

In response to a resolution of the Senate, the Secretary of the Navy has sent to that body a copy of a contract entered into by him on the 28th ult. with Miss Winnie Ream for the statue of Admiral Farragut ordered by Congress, and a copy of the formal award of the majority of the commission authorized to select a suitable and skillful sculptor for the same. From these papers it appears that General Sherman and Mrs. Far-

ragut (who, together with the Secretary of the Navy, constituted the commission) directed the contract to be made with Miss Ream for a colossal bronze statue ten feet high, and a granite pedestal, both to be finished and placed in Farragut square to the satisfaction of the commission within a reasonable time, for \$20,000 of which one-fourth is to be paid as soon as appropriated by Congress; one-fourth when a plaster model is made, and the remainder on the completion of the contract.

NAVY GAZETTE.

REGULAR NAVAL SERVICE.

ORDERED.

FEBRUARY 20.—Assistant Engineer N. H. Lamin, to the *Pinta* at New Orleans.

FEBRUARY 24.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Thomas Chiola, to report to the commander of the Canadagua for duty and assignment to the immediate command of Commander Lull on the Inter-Oceanic Survey.

DETACHED.

FEBRUARY 18.—Lieutenant George B. Livingston, from the Colorado, and ordered to the Plymouth.

Lieutenant Charles H. Randall, from the Plymouth, and ordered to the Colorado.

Lieutenant E. S. Houston, from the Benicia, and ordered to the Naval Rendezvous, San Francisco.

FEBRUARY 20.—Commander Charles A. Babcock, from ordnance duty, and placed on waiting orders.

Lieutenant Frederick H. Paine, from the Hydrographic office, and ordered to the torpedo steamer *Albat*.

Assistant Engineer George Cowie, from the *Pinta*, and ordered to return home and report arrival.

FEBRUARY 22.—Captain Wm. F. Spicer has reported his return home, having been detached from the command of the Dictator on the 5th inst., and has been placed on waiting orders.

FEBRUARY 23.—Lieutenant Geo. A. Bicknell, from the Worcester, and ordered to return home and wait orders.

Ensign G. C. Haus, from the Worcester, and ordered to duty on Coast Survey.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE GRANTED.

To Commander Robert Boyd for six months, with permission to leave the United States.

CHANGES OF OFFICERS ON THE ASIATIC STATION.

The following changes of officers have been made on the Asiatic Station since last report:

Lieutenant-Commander Chas. H. Craven detached from the *Kearsarge*, and ordered to the *Monocacy*.

Lieutenant-Commander F. W. Dickins detached from the *Monocacy*, and ordered to the *Kearsarge*.

Lieutenant Adolph Marx joined the *Saco*.

Midshipmen Lucian Flynn and C. W. Haskell detached from the *Hartford*, and ordered to the *Kearsarge*.

Passed Assistant Engineer J. G. Bromham detached from the *Kearsarge* and ordered to the *Hartford*.

Passed Assistant Engineer James H. Chasmar detached from the *Hartford* and ordered to the *Kearsarge*.

THE TRANSIT EXPEDITION.

U. S. SHIP SWATARA, 3RD RATE,
PORT CHALMERS, NEW ZEALAND,
January 11th, 1875.

Honorable George M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that this vessel under my command arrived here at 2 P. M. yesterday, four and a half days from Chatham Island. I anchored in Whangason Bay, Chatham Island, early on the morning of the 4th and found Mr. Edwin Smith and party in good health, and no accidents had occurred in our absence. The observation of the Transit from this station was not very successful, although several photographs were taken and some micrometric measurements.

I propose to leave here on Thursday the 14th, stop at Bluff Harbor, and take on board the instruments and outfit of the Queenstown party, and then proceed to Hobart Town.

Dr. Peters informs me that during his stay in New Zealand the warm hand of hospitality and kindness has been extended to him from all quarters, and that Railways, Telegraph lines and other facilities have been freely and generously tendered, without cost. This has been our experience in all colonies under the British Crown.

Very respectfully, etc.,
R. CHANDLER, Commander Commanding.

U. S. SHIP SWATARA, 3RD RATE,
PORT CHALMERS, NEW ZEALAND,
December 29th, 1874.

Honorable George M. Robeson, Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to inform the Department that this ship under my command arrived at this port at noon yesterday from the Auckland Island. In my letter of the 15th I informed the Department of my intention to go to that Island, to see about the welfare of the German party of observation of the Transit of Venus. I arrived here on the afternoon of the 23rd, and found the German party all well. The reason the *Alexandrina* did not go to Bluff Harbor for chronometer observations was this; when she sailed from Melbourne it took her fifteen days to reach the Auckland Island, and after arrival, it required so much time to land and set up the instruments and build the houses that they were not really ready for work until a week before the Transit took place. It was therefore determined not to send the vessel away until after the Transit, and her long absence caused the German Consul at Melbourne, to entertain fears of her safety. She left the Auckland a week after the Transit, the 16th made a fair passage to Bluff Harbor, and returned to Auckland Island, on the morning of the 25th. The German party were partially successful, in observing the Transit, having taken 115 photographs and observed the internal and external egress. We gave them a comparison of chronometers, which in the language of Dr. Seeligan, chief of the party, "was worth everything to him." I left there on the evening of the 25th, arrived off the bar here in forty hours, having experienced a strong westerly gale.

Yesterday I exchanged signals with Dr. Peters, at Queenstown, and he obtained satisfactory comparisons. He observed both contacts, and succeeded in getting 237 photographs. His are the only successful observations that were taken in New Zealand. I will hope reach the Chatham Islands by the 5th of January, 1875, and leave there by the 12th for Bluff Harbor, where I will take on board the party under Dr. Peters, and then proceed to Hobart Town.

Very respectfully, etc.,
R. CHANDLER, Commander Commanding.

PROF. E. S. HOLDEN, of the Naval Observatory at Washington, contributes to the February number of the *Popular Science Monthly* an interesting article on what is known to astronomers as "The Personal Equation," or, in more popular language, the allowance which must be made, in discussing the records of observations, for the constant error in time dependent upon the personal peculiarities of each observer. To note and record the passage of a star, for instance, across one of the spider-lines in the reticle of a telescope, required, before the use of the chronograph, a somewhat complex action of eye, ear and brain—the eye to catch the place of the star, the ear to catch the beat of the clock, and the brain to connect the two, and to estimate the relative distances of the star at two successive beats, on opposite sides of the line, and thus to arrive at the fractional part of a second elapsing after the first beat, before the star was actually on the line. The chronograph simplifies this process greatly, leaving to the observer no listening, counting or estimating. He has only to press a key at the instant when the star crosses the line. But it is found in practice that the combined operation of eye and brain and hand here involved not only takes an appreciable time, but that this period differs for different observers and for different sorts of observations. The most skillful astronomer is he whose personal equation is not the smallest, but the most uniform—independent, so to speak, of his momentary mood, and dependent solely upon his general organization. The principal cause of the phenomenon is probably the duration of the luminous impression of the star upon the retina; but there is no doubt that the introduction of any brain-work, whether in the way of judgment, or of commanding conscious muscular movement, increases at once the personal equation. Thus the equation is greater without than with the chronograph. Again, in an experiment given, an observer was to touch a signal-key on the appearance of a white spot—which he did after the lapse of 0.292 seconds (mechanically measured by an independent contrivance). But the same observer, when required to recognize whether the spot which appeared was white or red, and to touch one of two keys accordingly, consumed 0.443 seconds in the process. In other matters besides the estimation of time the personal equation is perceptible. In reading microscopic and micrometric distances, it is sometimes annoying. Thus, as Professor Holden narrates, a troublesome personal difference occurred during the comparison of the national standards of length, undertaken by the English Ordnance Survey. These comparisons were made by bringing a movable cross of spider-lines to bisect one of the lines engraved on the various bars, and it was found that Captain Clarke and Quartermaster Steel, of the Royal Engineers, who made the greater number of comparisons, differed in their estimate of a bisection by a constant amount which was annoyingly large; so that the "probable error of the final result is nearly double what might be expected from errors of observation only." This error cannot be eliminated, and it still remains in the published results. It must be remembered, as Professor Holden remarks in conclusion, that the quantities represented by the personal equation are exceedingly small. The accidental errors of inexperienced observers are so much greater as to mask the personal equation. Moreover, this equation is often neutralized when two observations of the same person are compared. It is evident that a watch which is always one-tenth of a second ahead of time may measure time perfectly; and thus an observer, estimating the moment of a transit or the distance of a point from a line, may commit a constant error, which will not vitiate the results of his work when two of his observations are compared. But when the work of different observers is discussed, and when the errors of observation affect units which are to be greatly multiplied in subsequent calculations, then the personal equation may be a serious element.

A Press despatch from Washington says: It appears from official data that the number of Indians captured by United States troops in 1873 was 227; Indians killed by United States troops, 405; citizens killed by Indians, 44; soldiers killed by Indians, 48; and during six months of 1874 the number of Indians captured by United States troops was 73; Indians killed by United States troops, 158; citizens killed by Indians, 36; soldiers killed by Indians, 3. The list of captured Indians embraces 159 Modocs, men, women and children, and from 100 to 150 men, women and children, of the Tonto Apaches, being a part of over 900 who left their reservation and were killed by United States troops sent out by the Post Commander to bring them back to the reservation, which attempt they resisted or evaded; also the killing of 193 men, women and children Apaches, of Camp Verde (the details are not given); and, also the killing of fifty-three men, women and children of the Apaches. Eskimizingin, an Apache Chief, San Carlos Agency, was arrested and put in the guard-room by order of the officers in command at that post. He escaped and fled to the mountains, and his example was followed by a large portion of the reservation Indians. United States troops and Indian scouts, under the officers in command, pursued and attempted to bring them back, and the Indians resisted, with the above results.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, FOR THE YEAR 1874.

Is now in press, and will be issued shortly. A limited number of Advertisements will be inserted in the Report at the rate of \$50 a page and \$30 a half page, with special rates for special locations. Advertisements will be received until the 1st of March.

Copies of the Annual Report of the Association for 1873 or of the one now in press for 1874, will be sent on receipt of twenty-five cents to cover postage, etc. The Report for 1874 will contain a full report of the International Match between the Irish and American teams, with a full record of the scores made at that match and the other matches upon the grounds at Creedmoor during the year—with diagrams of the targets.

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REFERENCES BY SPECIAL AGREEMENT.

General Sherman, U. S. Army, and lady, Washington, D. C.; Admiral David D. Porter, U. S. N., Washington, D. C.; Major-General G. G. Meade, U. S. Army, Philadelphia; General George, Sykes, U. S. Army; Brigadier-General L. N. Palmer, U. S. Army, Omaha, Neb.; Brigadier-General J. P. Graham, U. S. Army; Brigadier-General Wm. M. Graham, U. S. Army; Mrs. Admiral Dahlgren, Washington, D. C.; General S. D. Sturges, U. S. Army.

U. S. ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1875.

Office, No. 23 Murray Street, New York.

SUBSCRIPTION, SIX DOLLARS A YEAR.

THE death of Rear-Admiral CHARLES H. BELL, U. S. Navy at New Brunswick, N. J. February 19, removes from us another of the venerable officers whose career in the Navy covers almost the whole period of our Naval history. The deceased officer was in his seventy-seventh year, having been born in New York in 1798. It was in that year the United States Navy Department was formally created, and BENJAMIN STODDART appointed its first Secretary. Four years earlier on March 27th. 1794, Congress authorized the construction of six frigates, of which the old *Constitution* was one, and thus laid the foundation of the separate Department afterwards established, and of the Naval career of the Nation. Admiral BELL, entered the Navy as Midshipman, at the age of fourteen, and his first service was in

the *Macedonian*, 1813, in the squadron of Commodore DECATUR. The close of the war found him attached to Commodore CHAUNCEY's squadron, on Lake Ontario. In the Mediterranean squadron; in the war with Algiers, on coast survey duty; in the *Guerrier* on her trip to the Baltic and Mediterranean, under Commodore MACDONOUGH, and in the West India squadron, his time was passed until 1824 when, while in command of the Schooner *Ferret* he was capized at sea, and was relieved after a stay of nearly a day and night on the wreck, by the exertions of Commodore MCKEEVER, in command of the *Sea Gull*. In 1820 he had been promoted to be a lieutenant. He took part in cutting out the piratical schooner *Federal*, from under the guns of the forts at Guadaloupe, as commander of one of the *Erie's* boats; was attached to the Brooklyn Navy-yard; in 1834 joined the Pacific squadron as executive officer of the *Vincennes*, flagship of the Commodore WORDSWORTH; in 1835, had command of the schooner *Dolphin*, in which he made two cruises to the coast of Africa; in 1840 he was promoted to be Commander, and in 1844 commanded the sloop *Yorktown*, on the coast of Africa, remaining there until 1846, and during that time capturing three slavers, one of them with 908 negroes aboard. Shore duty as second in command of the Brooklyn Yard, occupied the two years from 1848 to 1854. In 1854 he attained his captaincy, the next taking command of the frigate *Constellation*, Mediterranean squadron, and there remaining three years. After shore duty, he was in 1867 appointed to the command of the Mediterranean squadron, with the *Richmond* as his flagship. Here the opening of the Rebellion found him and brought him orders to return home with his squadron. In 1862 he was made Commodore. Upon the capture of the *Trent*, with the famous Confederates MASON and SLIDELL, Commodore BELL was ordered to Panama, to assume command of the Pacific squadron, holding it for three years with the title of acting Rear-Admiral, with his flag on the *Lancaster*. On his return he was sent to the James River, and there remained until a few weeks before the close of the war. In 1865 he was in command of the Brooklyn Navy-yard, and there continued until 1868. Of late Admiral BELL has lived a quiet life at New Brunswick, having amply earned the right to rest in his declining years. His funeral took place on the 22nd., at Second Reformed Church in that city. The Rev. Dr. HARTMAN conducted the services and preached the funeral sermon, in the course of which he dwelt particularly on the modesty of the deceased, speaking of him as a man of true worth—a man who never sought public honors and preferred to know that he had done his duty in obedience to orders; a Christian whose life was the simplicity of virtue itself, and who departed in humility and faith and full of years and honors. The remains were removed to Elmwood Cemetery, and there deposited in the family burying plot. The pall bearers were Commodore TRENCHARD and Captain TEMPLE, Captain Low and Commander JOHNSON; Pay Director ELDRIDGE, Colonel BROWN, United States Marine Corps, General J. B. MCINTOSH, J. S. CARPENTER, MCKRAE SWIFT and JOHN HILLHOUSE. Vice-Admiral ROWAN, of the Brooklyn Navy-yard, was prevented from attending by illness, and Lieutenant WISE represented him.

We are gratified to be able to announce that General SHERMAN has yielded to the solicitation of his friends, and instead of leaving as a legacy to his family the diary, the concluding chapter of which was published in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL of September 26th, 1874, has consented to its immediate publication. The manner in which that specimen chapter was received in this country and Europe, shows how eagerly the General's forthcoming volumes will be awaited. The manuscript is now in the hands of the Messrs. APPLETON, who have arranged for its publication both here and in Europe, somewhere about the 1st of May. The work is in the form of an autobiography, beginning soon after SHERMAN's appointment as a Second Lieutenant of the Third Artillery, July 1st, 1840. About one-fifth, or some 150 pages, is occupied with the period ending with the opening of the Rebellion, and covers the history of the General's experiences in Mexico and California. The remainder of the two volumes of

375 octavo pages each, is devoted to the War of the Rebellion, and to instructive comments on General SHERMAN's experiences during that brilliant period in his career. How valuable this portion of the work will be to all students of military history, the chapter we have published from it convincingly shows. It is not offered to the public as a complete history, but rather as an *aide memoir* to the future Napier of our Civil War, and the effort has been, to condense as much as possible, and leave abundant room for others to follow. From the tendency of General SHERMAN's mind to frankness and distinctness of statement, we may expect his work will be one to provoke criticism, but this will increase rather than diminish its value, and it is well that it should see the light while so many of the prominent actors in the scenes it describes still continue among us. We shall have further occasion to refer to this most important contribution to military history as it advances toward publication.

In the miscellaneous appropriation bill introduced by Mr. GARFIELD, we find that "for the conversion and rifling of heavy guns," the sum of \$75,000 is granted, and the Secretary of War is authorized to expend for the same purpose the further sum of \$100,000, to be taken *pro rata* from the amount already appropriated for forts. To this latter we find no objection. We regard expenditures on our fortifications as of far less account than those for floating defenses; the Ordnance may reasonably contend that until the quality of our guns is improved further expense for forts is of secondary necessity. But as \$250,000 was asked for conversion alone and \$250,000 for experiments and tests, the proposed \$175,000 would go only a little ways towards accomplishing the objects desired. In fact, it would not more than pay the expenses of proof of experimental guns, now almost completed. If this small sum is all that Congress is willing to grant, then by all means let it be confined to the proof of guns now ready or nearly ready, and not divided up between these experiments and the conversions projected. Moreover what is meant by "for rifling?" It is easy to see that it means more of NORMAN WIARD, who evidently is not willing that the Government shall do anything in the way of improving or experimenting with heavy guns, without his assistance. Have not Mr. WIARD's assaults on the Treasury gone far enough? Is it possible that any intelligent man, at all conversant with the subject of heavy ordnance, has not by this time learned how utterly valueless Mr. WIARD's ridiculous performances at Nut Island were? We cannot believe that Mr. GARFIELD is aware of the fatal load he has put upon the experiments proposed, by introducing the words which give Mr. WIARD another opportunity of bursting Government guns.

It may be within the knowledge of Army officers that an English sportsman by the name and title of Colonel McCARTY, has been lately organizing a monster hunt. The scheme has excited much comment favorable and adverse, in the various papers. Particularly, a fierce contest has been waged in the columns of that quietest and most thoroughly gentlemanly of sporting papers, the *Forest and Stream*. Colonel McCARTY has announced his programme as follows: He proposes to leave Glasgow, Scotland, May 1st, per steamship *State of Nevada*; arrive in New York about the 12th, remain seven or eight days; thence to Niagara Falls, remaining one day; thence to Chicago; then take a steamer, and proceed to Lake Superior, fishing the rivers and lakes for two weeks; then return to Chicago, and after a rest of five days start for Texas, where the party is to join wagon trains, hunters and commissariat already provided for the journey. This takes them into the middle of June, when, says the Colonel, wild turkeys and quail are full grown, fawns have lost their spots, and buffalo calves are brown. After hunting through Western Texas for fifty or sixty days in quest of buffalo and other varieties of game, they propose to reach Pueblo, Colorado, thence the railroad to Colorado Springs, where those who are so inclined can visit the Twin Lakes and fish for speckled trout, thence proceed *via* Denver, Cheyenne, Ogden, and Salt Lake City to the Yosemite Valley and Big Trees. After enjoying the scenery and fishing, they are to

take a steamer at San Francisco for Oregon, and tackle the salmon among the rapids of the Columbia. After this they are to return to San Francisco, thence east of the Rocky Mountains, and spend a portion of time in Kansas to enjoy fall shooting among the grouse, deer, antelope, bear and elk. The party then proceed to St. Louis, remaining there a few days, thence to Chicago to enjoy Fall duck shooting for a brief period, and then return to New York *via* Washington, reaching England in time for the holidays.

The programme is certainly varied, but there are many opponents who contend that its early part is unsportsmanlike, denying that the game is then full grown, and further denying it as impracticable and absurd. Colonel McCARTY claims to know every step of the way in Northwestern Texas, while his opponents deny this in toto. Probably our Army officers who are stationed around the Indian Territory and the "Pan Handle" of Texas may know more about the country over which he proposes to travel, and of the practicability of the route, than any of the gentlemen who have hitherto written on the subject. Like the tour of the "Innocents Abroad" and Cook's "Grand Continental Excursions," there is little doubt that the "Big Hunt" will be a big bore to any person of sense who may be induced to join it, but that any serious diminution of the game of the great West will issue therefrom, is hardly to be feared. If any of the officers stationed in the department of Texas behold crowds approaching them in the course of the summer, they will be reassured against fears of a fresh Indian outbreak by the thought that it is probably only the "Big Hunt" meandering that way.

THE case of Commander RICHARD W. MEADE, U. S. Navy v. the St. Louis Mutual Life Insurance Company, to which we referred in the JOURNAL of August 8th, is now on trial in Brooklyn, before Judge Pratt. The suit, as we have before explained, is to set aside and declare null and void, a transfer by one company of its liabilities and responsibilities to another company without the consent of the insured. In bringing it Commander MEADE, has consulted not only his own interests, but those of many officers of the Army and Navy. As our readers are aware, the St. Louis Mutual Life Insurance Company established several years ago an Army and Navy Insurance Department. The plaintiff, in March, 1871, at the office or agency of the above Company in New York, took out a policy, which was to be succeeded by a paid-up policy upon the performance of certain conditions by the plaintiff. The plaintiff alleges that he was induced to insure in the company from inducements, statements, and schemes issued by Messrs. GREGORY and HOUSTON, the New York Agents of the Company, and that while he has performed his part of the contract, the Company failed in theirs. That in March 1874, he applied for a paid-up policy, when a policy was sent to him, which subsequently proved to be a policy in the Mound City Insurance Company, an institution with a nominal capital of \$1,000,000, and that the interests of the St. Louis Mutual Life Company had been merged into this Company, and the name thereupon changed to the St. Louis Life Insurance Company. The plaintiff insists that the St. Louis Mutual Company had no authority under its charter to transfer its interests to another company, and that by so doing it committed legal *felo de se*, and that this Court should declare these transfers null and void, and compel defendant to perform its contract. The defence is that the transfer was made by Commander MEADE's consent; that the circular issued by the New York agents, to which plaintiff refers, was unauthorized by the Company, and that the plaintiff is entitled to no relief, except that contained in the letter of the insurance policy.

The last assertion is somewhat singular in view of the well known fact, that these circulars were distributed by GREGORY and HOUSTON, among Army and Navy officers by hundreds, and the fact was perfectly well known to the St. Louis Company and approved by them, otherwise no policies at all could have been issued. It is to be said to Mr. HOUSTON's credit that as soon as he found that the contracts of the Insurance Company with his clients were not carried out according to his intentions, he withdrew

from the firm which now consists of Mr. GREGORY alone.

Our Naval officers are beginning to emulate the example of their brethren across the water of the British Naval Professional Associations and evidence of their thorough capacity for the work is found in the lectures, pamphlets and essays that reach us from time to time, penned by junior as well as senior officers of our Navy. The latest contributions to this class of literature are the essays of Lieutenant BARBER on "Moveable Torpedoes," and Lieutenant CONVERSE on "Torpedo Fuses." These little works in the compass of a few pages, give us the modern information on floating torpedoes; and the first-named includes a history of their progress from the time when the Dutch blew up the bridge across the Scheldt of the PRINCE OF PARMA in 1585. This first torpedo was much like BUTLER's powder boat at Fort Fisher, but more successful, the force of the explosion being confined by walls of masonry five feet thick. After describing the ordinary drifting torpedoes of all kinds, a full description is given of the principal automatic moveable torpedoes, of which Lieutenant BARBER observes, "the most important of them is the WHITEHEAD." No mention is made of either the LAY or ERICSSON machines, but as a previous lecture on the WHITEHEAD is referred to, it is possible that they may have been mentioned therein. Submarine guns next claim attention, on which point little is yet certainly settled.

THE race for government patronage in the small arms manufacture has become so keen that pressure is brought to bear on Congress from many quarters to annul the decisions of Ordnance boards and give another weapon a trial. The latest attempt is in favor of the ROBERTS breech-loader, which stands at present in the long catalogue of arms, meritorious and otherwise, excluded by law from the military service of the United States. The pressure produced a request for information and suggestions, and a report from the Chief of Ordnance on the subject, which throws back the responsibility on Congress, the Chief declining to do more than present the laws and records on the subject. The wisdom of adopting a single model for all weapons in Government service admits of no controversy if once a good model is secured, and there is little probability of change in the U. S. weapon at present.

As we are fortunate enough to have in our Naval service two Lieutenants VERY, neither of whom would be willing to accept any credit belonging to the other, it may be well to say that the Lieutenant VERY, to whose excellent paper on the system of land attacks of naval brigades we referred last week, is Lieutenant E. W. VERY, and not his cousin, Lieutenant S. W. VERY.

SOME interesting items on the Modoc war appear in a late report to the House. The cost of the whole proceeding runs up to quite a respectable figure, considering the small force with Captain JACK. For transportation service was paid by one Quartermaster, \$120,585, and \$15,377 more remain unpaid. The others swell the amount to \$411,068.18. Altogether, Captain JACK cost the United States Government several thousand dollars a man for his command.

THE National Association of the Veterans of the Mexican War, at its second annual convention at Washington, on the 22nd and 23rd, appointed committees to influence legislation to insure to Mexican Veterans, in need of it, the right of domicile at the Soldier's Home; to push the claims of the association before the Pension Committees of Congress; and to raise funds for the association. Resolutions were passed, calling upon the Government to consider needy survivors of the Mexican War in the distribution of employment, and tendering thanks to the Hon. R. C. MCCORMICK, of Arizona, for his efforts to have a monument erected to General ZACHARY TAYLOR. The body waited on the President at the White House, and were severally introduced to him. The orator was General TIDBALL of New York. The following officers were elected: General J. W. DENVER, president; A. M. KENADAY, first secretary; Colonel SCHLEY, first assistant secretary; J. F. HUBER, second assistant secretary; H. MCGLENNAN, third assistant secretary; S. V. NILES, treasurer; General E. R. BILES, marshal. The next meeting will be held July 4th, 1876, at Philadelphia.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications published under this head. His purpose is to allow the largest freedom of discussion consistent with propriety and good feeling.

ARMY LIFE.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: As I see that you are publishing some old Army lyrics, I presume to send you some verses written by an Army lady, suggested by complaints against Army life that she had been hearing. I have no poetry in my composition, hence am no judge of the verses as verses, but I think they breathe a spirit that is worth cultivating.

Talk not to me of a princely home,
Or of wealth and its golden bowers,
I know a home where love alone
Guides all the swift-winged hours.
Oh! the Army life for me,
The life so bright and free,
So happy, and so free.

Where are the homes so fond and bright,
Such cheerful hearts, such willing feet,
Changing the darkest hour to light
With love, "which makes our war complete?"
Oh! the Army life for me,
The life so bright and free,
So fond—so free.

Where are the arms so strong and brave,
The hearts so daring and so true,
Those arms the glittering sabre wave,
Those hearts beat under the blue,
The hearts so brave and true,
Under the Army blue,
So tender, and so true.

Oh! I dearly love my Army home,
Where'er that home may chance to be,
'Neath the scorching rays of the tropic sun,
Or under the Northern forest tree.
Oh! the Army home for me,
Where'er it chance to be,
No other home for me.

I love the dear old Flag, and yield
It reverent love most fond and true,
For I have felt its power to shield
When foes were thick, and friends were few.
My home shall ever be
Beneath its folds so free;
My Flag, so proud and free.

I love the bugle-call ringing so clear,
Making at earliest dawn the echoes free,
Thus sweetly roused from happy dreams I hear
The joyous notes of gladness "Reveille."
Sweet reveille,
So bright, so free,
Glad reveille.

I love the "pomp and circumstance,"
The pageantry of war—the beat of drum—
The flashing sword—the bayonet glance—
The measured tread of armed men.
The measured tread, so grand, so free,
Of armed men,
As brave as free.

And when the day is past, and set of sun
Brings glad respite to weary feet,
How like a benediction booms the evening gun
To the soft notes of gently-blown "Retreat."
Retreat so soft,
So sweet,
Welcome retreat.

When dark night brings its kind repose,
'Mid desert heats, or falling dew,
'Mid cherished friends, or hostile foes,
Our best good night is sweet "Tattoo."
Tattoo, a welcome sweet
To soft and gentle sleep;
Tattoo so sweet.

And as our drowsy eyelids fall,
Brave hearts shall guard us from mishaps,
And while we pray, "God guard us all,"
We faintly hear the long-drawn "Taps."
The taps so soft,
So faint,
The long-drawn taps.

I've camped bright days on the grassy lea,
Bivouacked long nights on the burning sands,
I've followed the drum o'er land and sea,
And heard the "long roll" mid savage bands.
That roll shall my hero's watchword be,
Lead on good drum,
We'll follow thee.

RONREVOG.

THE RETIRED LIST AND ACTIVE DUTY.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In a Republic like ours, the creation, support and changes in the way of increase or decrease of the military arm of the public service must ever rest with the Legislative Department: this right without challenge has uniformly been exercised by Congress since we became a nation—often for good, sometimes for evil. For the first class of legislation the Army as a body has been thankful, for the last submissive and patient under what many believed unjust deprivation of professional franchises of inestimable value, preferring to preserve untarnished true loyalty to the voice of the Government as expressed through Congress to repining at the ills inflicted. Now, however, when there is an act pending in Congress of a nature so radical, so utterly subversive of the order of things, so likely to retrograde order into chaos, the calm voice of reason may be heard from the Army against it. The act referred to is one repealing all legislation preventing officers on the Retired List being assigned to active duty. Should this legislation be successful, where is the end of evil and confusion which must follow?

Is not such assignment of retired officers an *ipso facto* denial of the propriety of having originally placed them in the position they now occupy? Was not the ground of their application the unequivocal assertion on their part, confirmed by the opinion of competent boards of disinterested brother officers, that they were unfit to perform military duty with its often arduous undertakings? The badge of honor impressed on

their persons by wounds, injuries and loss of health in their country's service should have been good and sufficient reason for their relief from active service, and, at one-fourth reduction of monthly pay, exemption from service beyond their physical power. If these facts are not patent and true, then why were they retired?

Do these applicants once reflect on the extreme confusion such assignments must make? The first appearance gives the idea that only Courts-martial duty, membership of boards, commanding dismantled works, etc., are sought for; but the human mind is grasping and avaricious (and the minds of honorably retired Army officers afford no exception to the rule), and we shall be called upon to repeal all manner of distinction between the Active and Retired lists. Certainly the *esprit du corps* of these gentlemen would forbid their making application for the seat of a brother in the Active List, who after scouting the Plains on Indian trails for years, or with his visage turned yellow by the miasms of Florida and Arkansas, finds himself ordered for but a brief moment on a Court-martial or Board of Survey in the bounds of civilization.

The Retired List abounds with men whose names are synonyms of honor and integrity—it cannot be believed they will willingly lend themselves to such injustice. But another barrier stands in the way of the consummation of this asked-for legislation: the number of officers on the Active List is now regulated by law; if the Retired come back for active duty it must be in the Active List. Almost every minor grade is represented among the general officers of the retired organization—they may not expect to resume duty as such, for Congress has limited the number of general officers, and they must either come back with less of rank and pay, or the bottom falls out of this scheme entirely. In lieu of this endeavor for change of personal status, had these officers petitioned for the full pay of their retired grade, nine out of ten officers of the Army would have said "amen," but these same officers must feel deeply the want of good faith of brother officers who would drive them from the seldom occurring benefits of such duty as is relief for the time being from the dangers, perils and discomforts of field and frontier duty.

May not the retired gentlemen thus petitioning take warning of the assertion of Queen Elizabeth to some arrogant Papal demand: "Let his Holiness beware in grasping at too much he does not ruin all." Exception has been taken in these columns to the manner the Retired List has been spoken of. Cold must be the spring of malice and feeling which can utter one word to its discredit; unfeeling the heart and unappreciative the mind which allows an idea of malice to enter into judgment of the subject. These men are the nation's wards, and through life will be tendered that respect which finds its only parallel in the tribute we pay the patriotic dead. Let us cement the links which bind us in the military service—the present Active List will do their part, let not the Retired ones by unjust applications rust these links until they are severed.

WORROTS.

ALCATRAZ ISLAND, CAL., February 5, 1875.

THE BATTLE OF FAIR OAKS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: In the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL of October 31 last, was an article written by a staff officer of the late General Phil Kearney, and partly with the view of correcting errors charged by the writer to be found in the details of this battle as given by General Johnston in his "Narrative." The article was evidently prepared with some care, and we are willing to believe for the laudable purpose of vindicating the truth of history; and if the writer has fallen into errors, it must be more a matter of regret to himself than to others, for, to quote his own words, he wrote "the truth simply, and as he saw it."

The article will be read with interest by many who were on the Confederate side, owing in part to the fact that it was accompanied by a map, quite accurate in its details, and no doubt entirely so, wherein it indicates the positions occupied by the different divisions of the Union Army just preceding the attack made by the Confederates in the afternoon of May 31, as well as the positions of the same on the following morning. It is not proposed to make a detailed reply to the staff officer, but simply to cite a few of his mistakes, some of which it is probable he will both see and admit.

The writer quotes from General Johnston's "Narrative" as follows: "General Hill pursued the enemy towards Bottom's Bridge more than a mile," this he denies, saying: "We have shown that there was no pursuit whatever, there could have been none for evident reasons—the Confederates were repulsed in their final efforts." It is seen from the article that Casey's division when the action began was a half mile west of Seven Pines, this being at the intersection of the Nine Mile and Williamsburg roads. Casey's redoubt, captured in the afternoon of the 31st, was at this intersection; and on the map east of Seven Pines on the Williamsburg road, are two houses, which the writer says were "by actual measurement just one and one-eighth mile from Casey's redoubt." He also states that the horse of Colonel Poe was killed at these houses, and cites as evidence, that the Confederates did not advance as far as this point, that some of Colonel Poe's men returned at 10 P. M. and recovered the equipments from the horses without being either seen or interfered with by the enemy. The houses being by actual measurement just one and one-eighth mile east of the captured redoubt, and Casey's division being a half mile west of it when the battle began, would make them one and five-eighths mile in rear, or "over a mile" from where the battle began.

For the information of the staff officer, it may be stated that the advance of the Confederates did not cease till the houses were passed. Anderson's brigade

halted east of them, and one regiment was thrown yet further east, several hundred yards beyond the "slightly washed ravine grown up with brambles," into which Colonel Poe retired with his men, to advance again and have his horse killed near the houses, and then a second time to retire, and now accompanied with other troops and continued the retreat until "they were behind intrenchments a mile in front of Savage station," and over two miles from where Casey was first encountered. About 12 o'clock at night, Anderson's was relieved by Wilcox's brigade, and that of Pryor bivouacked several hundred yards in rear or west of Wilcox. If Colonel Poe's men returned as stated, they were in the midst of either Anderson's or Wilcox's brigade, and escaped possibly by being mistaken in the dark night for Confederates.

The following criticism can in no manner properly apply to General Johnston. "New dispositions on the part of the Confederate commander, were absolutely necessary at 10 P. M. on the 31st, and in failing to make them, and adhering to a previously arranged plan, . . . General Johnston disclosed an unexpected poverty of resources at a time when the emergency demanded the highest generalship." As General Heintzelman had, after the termination of the battle, "prudently reformed and reunited his command," the Third and Fourth Corps, some two miles in rear of where the battle began, it was quite reasonable to suppose that the Confederates would have to renew the attack the next morning in a manner somewhat different from that of the previous afternoon; but as General Johnston was seriously wounded, his responsibility ceased at that time, and before the first day's battle had terminated.

The staff officer gives General Johnston's order of battle, and pronounces it faultless, but says it was not carried out, and then goes on to describe the battle, saying, Casey was driven back by Hill, "but the six brigades of Longstreet, until late in the afternoon, being foolishly held in reserve, etc., etc." One of Longstreet's brigades (Pickett's), marched in rear of Hill, on his left, along the York River Railroad, and did not become engaged, and three of the remaining brigades, Wilcox, Colston, and Pryor to the right, on the Charles City road, some distance south of the Williamsburg road; they were marched and counter-marched on this by General Longstreet's order, losing much time, and then crossed over to the Williamsburg road, striking it over a mile west of Seven Pines, and where the fight was then going on near the redoubt. Of these three brigades, but part of one regiment of Wilcox's brigade became engaged.

Hill having driven Casey back, the Confederates, according to the writer, next "directed their attack against Couch on the Nine Mile road, he had 7,000 men of his division, and Naglee's brigade of 1,200 * * * against this force, partially protected by an abatis and a line of rifle pits. Hill's troops, now reinforced by Longstreet's brigades under Anderson, were directed to advance." Pickett's brigade, was not in this advance, nor was either Wilcox, Colston, or Pryor; Kemper's may have been, but it is not believed to have been. The staff officer is both graphic and animated in his description of this part of the battle, the Federals having besides Crouch's division and Naglee's brigade, Kearney's division and other brigades mentioned by name. He speaks "of Longstreet and Hill struggling in vain to force the abatis in Couch's front," it was not "until he was reinforced by Hood's brigade that this was accomplished." It has already been stated that four of Longstreet's brigades were not engaged at this time, and it is possible that there was but one (Anderson engaged.)

"The Confederates advanced their left along a farm road, running parallel with and about midway between the York River Railroad and the Williamsburg road. It was on this small road near the southwestern corner of the Allen farm that Birney struck their head of column and caused them to desist in their efforts in that direction. To the north and east of this point, the Confederates never penetrated." The Confederates did penetrate east of this point, for the two houses on the Williamsburg road, one and one-eighth mile east of Casey's redoubt, are on a line with this point, and they advanced east or beyond these houses several hundred yards, as has been before stated.

The staff officer says "the last attack of the enemy was made in deep masses just before dark, and met with a complete repulse." He does not state where this attack was made, but on the Confederate side it is believed the last shots were fired near the two houses (where Colonel Poe's horse was shot), on the Williamsburg road, and the language of the writer while referring to this part of the engagement, would seem to indicate that such was the case, but no heavy masses were engaged at this point. But, "for the sake of history, and to fortify his statement," he makes a quotation from "Colonel Estvan, a foreign officer of distinction, who commanded a Confederate regiment of cavalry in this action." There was no cavalry engaged on the Southern side in this battle. Colonel Estvan is unknown to the present writer, and on consulting a Confederate cavalry general of distinction, he learned from him that if there was such a colonel, he did not know him.

No personal knowledge of the fighting that occurred on the 31st on the north side of the Williamsburg road is claimed by the present writer, but he always believed that the Confederates had but three brigades engaged in that quarter, these of Smith's division, and not for any considerable length of time.

The fighting on the second day, June 1st, continued, according to General Kearney's staff officer, nearly seven hours, entailing a loss on the two sides of over 3,000. Few Confederates believe that it continued one-third of that time. They have always regarded it as a very small affair. The writer says, and truthfully, "the very best evidence of successful fighting, is the retention at the close of an engagement of the field fought over," and then says, "that when all firing

ceased, about 2 P. M. on Sunday, the entire field fought over had been regained by the Union troops; Casey's lines were reoccupied, the Confederates being in full retreat." This is hardly sustained by the facts of the case. The first troops to become engaged on the Confederate side on Sunday morning were Wilcox and Pryor's brigades, these being in line parallel with the Williamsburg road and facing north. One regiment from the first mentioned brigade, was detached and faced east, was at right angles to the Williamsburg road and north of it, and several hundred yards east of the brigade. Soon after daylight, the morning of June 1st, small squads of Federal soldiers came into the open field about the two houses and gave themselves up. The early morning was both cloudy and rainy, it was probably a little after sun up when the first shots (musketry) were heard, and in less than an hour, Wilcox and Pryor were engaged in quite a brisk fight, but in woods so dense that but little could be seen. Whilst the firing was rapid, and the men in excellent spirit and condition, an order was received to withdraw, and reform in line to the south of the road at Seven Pines and facing east. The order was obeyed, and although the retiring took place while an active musketry fight was going on, the Federals did not pursue, and it was not till between ten and twelve o'clock that they were seen in small parties in the old field about the two houses. The line occupied by Wilcox and Pryor, and four or five other brigades, on the south side of the road, crossed it at Seven Pines, and here these brigades remained until after dark, when they returned to their camp near Richmond. The other portions of the Army retired at or about the same time.

It is a strange error that, of the staff officer, when he asserts that by 2 P. M. June 1st, "the entire field fought over had been regained by the Union troops, Casey's lines were reoccupied, the Confederates being in full retreat." This error being so easily recognized as such, by both Union and Confederate officers, may cause doubts, especially among the latter, as to the correctness of the article in other respects. And of a like nature is one with reference to General McClellan, he finding fault with him for not taking Richmond immediately after Seven Pines, and says: "The same irresolution which became so painfully manifest to the country at Yorktown, where 13,000 Confederates held in check for over one month, his splendid Army, of not less than 80,000 was again apparent at Fair Oaks." McClellan began to skirmish along Magruder's front April 3d, and by the tenth or twelfth, the Confederates had been so heavily reinforced that there was no fear as to the result of a battle, should he make the attack. This information, the staff officer could have obtained, had he consulted the published reports of Confederate officers. W.

THE ARTILLERY SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

SIR: In a letter to the JOURNAL of the 20th instant, an officer signing himself "A" says: "Since the establishment of the Artillery School in 1867, I have waited in vain to see something in your paper of the manifest distasteful way in which the theoretical instruction of the school is conducted." Whether the system in vogue there is not, on the whole, the best possible, is a subject for debate, and from such standpoint I shall attempt to answer some of the objections raised in the letter referred to.

The objections are classed under four heads. The first of which is, "The system of marks which obtains." The system of marks was established for the purpose and is nothing more or less than an incentive to study. Copied from West Point, its effects at one place are the same as at the other, with, perhaps, this difference, that where it might be abolished at West Point and some other substituted for determining relative merit, without material injury, the same result would not obtain at the Artillery School—marks at West Point are the immediate, graduation the remote incentive. A cadet's standing at one place affects his entire army life. An officer's at the other has no direct effect. Can it be denied that the marks at the Artillery School act as an incentive? My year's experience refutes that from the interest that was taken in them by almost every member of the class. Some, I know, pretended not to care for marks, nor to look at them, but they found out from others what they were, and kept thoroughly posted in their relative standing as determined from these very same marks. Take away the system without substituting another materially the same in its effects, and what would be the result? Would an officer's dread of being reported to the General of the Army's prescribed in par. 5 of No. 99, 1867, be sufficient to make him apply as much time to his studies as he now does? I think not; anyone who has spent a year at Old Point knows how often he would have spent an evening at the club or socially, if the knowledge that some one with whom he was competing would go above him had not deterred him from so doing.

Even as it is, nearly every year officers are found deficient, not because they are incapable, but because they will not apply themselves. If such is the case when such deficiency is made public to one's corps and the Army at large, what would it be if the system of standing was taken away? In that case, so far as the theoretical instruction goes, the Artillery School might as well be abolished, and the course of study pursued there, carried out at the various posts. "Comparisons are odious" I know—but in a profession where no other incentive than self culture is offered, comparisons must exist, especially at a place like the Artillery School. Are these comparisons, resulting from a system of standing, subversive of discipline? It seems to me not. The Artillery School has been established over seven years. Is the discipline in the corps to-day worse than it was at that time? If so, we had better apply ourselves heart and soul to have it abolished.

Does the publishing of standing "violate the spirit of that well-known regulation or military custom which discourages the unnecessary censure of superiors in the presence of their juniors?" I think not. I surely announce that one officer being more studious, by spending more hours perhaps, or by having better opportunities, has passed a better theoretical examination at the Artillery School than another. If this is a violation of that order, any commendation of an officer for marked efficiency is also an injustice to those above him. The selection of an officer to perform some special task to which he is by study better fitted than others above him, virtually is a censure of superiors in the presence of juniors, but who ever looks at it in that light? Must every officer be classed mentally according to his standing in the Army Register for fear of hurting the feelings of some senior? If so, farewell to even the little incentive our profession now holds out. That juniors graduate above seniors is under the circumstances very natural, but who ever heard of a junior assuming over a superior on that account? If he did, and the senior permitted it, it is his own fault. This might be obviated in a large degree by sending first lieutenants alone to the school commencing from the top of the roster, this would throw them at about the same age and experience together, and make the competition much fairer. It is almost an absurdity sending a young graduate to Old Point, who has only been out of West Point a year perhaps. To him it is only a review of studies already fresh in his memory, and does him little or no good. A few years later, when he could add his practical experience to the reviewing of his old time studies, it would be a thousand times more beneficial. That the course is in many respects distasteful no one can deny, but any course would be distasteful. Study to most men who have gotten out of the habit is not agreeable, but on that account should the Artillery School be abolished?

When "A" asks "how long other institutions would stand if they were conducted in a distasteful way," he must bear in mind that there is a marked difference in the two cases. An officer attending the Artillery School goes there against his will; he is ordered there and made to study whether he will or no; aside from mere standing and personal satisfaction there is no incentive to study; his graduating head will not advance his promotion; the man next above him on the list in his own regiment may be found deficient, and yet he is promoted first. How is it at a law school? A man attends of his own free will; he studies because he knows that every moment valuably spent advances him, enables him to take a stand in his profession, opens the way all the sooner to a lucrative practice. Studying at these institutions is often distasteful, but it has to be done; the system at West Point is anything but agreeable, but for that reason shall the system be abolished?

The three other objections, viz.: "The arrangement of officers according to theoretical proficiency," "The public announcement in orders of the relative standing of officers," and "The public announcement in orders of officers declared deficient in any branch of study," may all be classed under the same head. The preceding remarks are applicable to these objections—in fact, are given to prove that a system of standing should be maintained, and this acknowledged. The plan of marking each recitation is almost a necessary consequence. It would have been a much greater credit to the Army if the provisions in reference to officers found deficient had been carried out strictly. The making it a dead letter, in the first case, was the worst blow the Artillery School ever received; but what can be expected when political influence, in a large measure, controls our little Army? and while the arranging of classes according to merit seems advisable to me, there is objection to making "standing" too prominent, and especially to one feature of it. I speak of the custom of printing the name of number one in letters of fire, and displaying it to the eyes of a gaping crowd. Such a practice is not worthy of a boys' military school, decidedly unworthy of Old Point; and it is to be hoped that the commandant of the school will in future forego the custom. The present system seems much like our commissions in the Army. Many of us say, "As soon as we can find something better, we shall resign," but, until that time, we hold on to our commissions. So, until a better plan shall be suggested, the present method had better be retained.

Passing on to some of the general points of corrections of "A's" letter, I would say, in reference to officers being treated like men—not boys—that, judging from the stories told in past years, many of the officers deserved just that treatment. Some of the proceedings at the Artillery School since its establishment have been unworthy the youngest collegiate, and I thoroughly believe in the fact that there, or any where else, an officer demanding the respect and treatment due a man will always receive it. I do not claim to be an ardent supporter of the Artillery School, but I do think it has done and is doing a good work for the corps—a work which every Artillery officer ought to try and improve, but never detract from it. Let us consider this as the foundation of something better. What is needed for the Artillery is a more practical institution, perhaps the same instruction as now, followed by a year devoted to lectures and scientific acquirements. To most men sent there, the review of algebra, geometry, and most of the studies pursued, is a sheer waste of time. To men who have not been over such a course, the advantages offered of so doing ought to be accepted, and thoroughly appreciated. Without just that knowledge, the science of artillery cannot be understood—cannot be even approached. But it is a science which means more than algebra, more than the mere drilling of men, and for the attainment of which a year of the right kind of study would only serve as a commencement. How profitably could a year be spent in learning thoroughly

the use of the ballistic machines, the various angle measures, the study of campaigns, the theory of defence applied to imaginary harbors, the adaptation of troops to ground, the use of torpedoes, and a thousand and one other practical points, to which little or no time is now given, simply because all the time is taken up. The majority of officers have a sufficient knowledge of what is now taught; they long for something higher, and, until the school raises its standard, so long will it be unpopular to those ordered there. Make it like the Engineer School at Willet's Point, with the change consequent from the difference of services, let those who are sufficiently advanced spend one year, others two years, in graduating, then we shall have a school of which the Artillery may be proud, the benefits of which would, I think, be sought after by every one desirous of improving his professional knowledge. ARTILLERY.

THE ADMIRALTY BILL.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: This bill is intended to correct the greatest evil in our naval administration. It subjects the bureaux of the Department to a board, who by their rank will form an impartial and professional authority immediately under the Secretary. They will in reality constitute a board whose sole duty will be to advise the Hon. Secretary and to act as his executive. Through this board all orders will pass, thus securing uniformity and controlling that hydra now in the Department, which is commonly known as the "Bureau System;" under which not long since a survey was called upon a sofa in the cabin of one of the ships of the Navy. The cushions were condemned, and after much trouble and labor, triplicate reports were made out and duly sent to the Bureau of Construction and Repair. In a few days it was returned endorsed, "Sofa cushions belong to Equipment and Recruiting." The whole work was again performed, and triplicate reports sent to Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting, and were returned with, "Sofa cushions belong to Construction and Repair." Much correspondence ensued, but the cushions were never repaired by anybody.

At another time, a vessel was to be sent to Key West with stores; she was a yacht purchased during the Cuban excitement. Each bureau in the Navy Department desired to send enough stores in that frail yacht to fill and load a frigate. I venture to state that outside of the people connected with the Department, and of those who have an axe to grind, there is no one but what considers the present bureau system a curse and a blight upon the Service. It is certainly true that all officers oppose and denounce the system until they are appointed bureau chiefs, when they suddenly become converts to that plan which allows of seven secretaries instead of one. VINDEX.

THE LAUNDRESS QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Having seen in a late number of the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL a piece about company laundresses, I wish to make a few remarks about them, namely, that the majority of them do not take time to do the washing clean. Myself and others have sent our washing to the company laundress to be washed, and when we had got it back, instead of it being clean, it was just as dirty as when we sent it. We stood it as long as we could, but were forced to take our washing away from the laundress and give it to some one else. I want to ask you if, when we take our washing away from the company laundress, we are not entitled to have our soap, or if we have to buy it ourselves, shall the company laundress receive the soap when she does not do the washing, and to take and sell it? Also having seen in the JOURNAL about us privates being rough on our laundresses in language, I wish to say that the majority of the laundresses are a great deal rougher in their language than we are. And what do you think about a laundress saying that she does not care to wash for privates, as she would rather wash for the non-commissioned officers? I for one think that we are better off without such laundresses, as these, for they are only a nuisance to the company, and as for them having no quarters, they are the first to be looked after. A PRIVATE.

ALEXANDRIA, February 1, 1875.

POST QUARTERMASTER SERGEANTS.

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal:

SIR: Permit me through the columns of your valuable JOURNAL, to bring up once more the bill introduced twice before Congress, "but never acted on," viz., the appointment of post quartermaster sergeants with the same rank, pay, and allowance of commissary and ordnance sergeants. It seems strange to many that Congress has overlooked the former, when a non-commissioned officer or private acting (as some one does at every military post,) post quartermaster sergeant, has far more responsibility and clerical duties to perform than either of the other staff non-commissioned officers. The Quartermaster General in his report suggested the appointment of post quartermaster sergeants with the same view as the Commissary General did for three years before the bill passed for their appointment. Now, sir, I think if this matter was brought before the Military Committee, that they would see the justice of the case referred to. In the first case, a commissary or ordnance sergeant gets if enlisted (as most of them are), \$30 per month, whereas an acting quartermaster sergeant gets the pay of his grade \$13, \$15, or \$17, and \$6 per month extra duty pay. JUSTIN.

THE NATIONAL GUARD.

THE ELECTIVE SYSTEM.—As the Code amendments are not yet passed, and as discussion on the absolute merits of the present New York militia system is always in order, we are glad to see that our late remarks on the subject have aroused general interest in the State. Much of the interest has shown itself in bitter, and in some cases rather disconcerting opposition, principally from the Albany papers. An officer in the Second Division has, however, in a letter to a Brooklyn journal taken such a temperate and proper stand that we cannot refrain from publishing his remarks in the margin. The officer says:

"Having noticed an article in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL on the 'Elective System,' I respectfully request you to publish this communication as the views of a number of members of the National Guard on the subject. The appointing system, as proposed by the JOURNAL, would be a very good one, provided the militia of the State was paid for its service, as is the militia of Connecticut, and the uniforms furnished to its members free of expense; then the members would be satisfied to serve under such officers as might be appointed by a higher power than themselves. We claim that it is not justice to compel a man to pay part cost of his uniform, spend his money for company dues, and his time for the benefit of the State, and not give him the privilege of serving under the man of his choice. The benefits derived by a member of the National Guard are few enough now without taking from him this privilege. . . . The fault of the present system lies with the higher power, to whom the JOURNAL proposes to give further license. If a company allows itself to be influenced by the false glitter of gold or any other reason into electing incompetent officers, why are such officers allowed to receive their commissions? Each regiment has, or should have, an Examining Board, and if that is not sufficient we have a State Examining Board, where if a man is unfit, either as to military knowledge or social reputation, he cannot pass. Our idea is to enforce the rule that every officer shall pass an examination before receiving his commission, increase the appropriation from five to ten dollars, reduce the term of service from seven to five years, and give veteran members the privilege of enlisting for one or more years, after faithfully serving their full term of service."

The objections suggested by this correspondent are the only valid ones against the appointing system in our State. The weakness of the remedy proposed is that it does not go far enough. The injustice of the present system would only be lessened, not removed, by increasing the pay to any extent short of compensation for all necessary expenses, leaving the loss of time the only burden on the National Guardsman. The trouble, as we have shown repeatedly, lies in the niggardly extent of the annual appropriation in New York, compared with the large force sought to be maintained. The way to make our National Guard effective is either to increase the appropriation or reduce the force to correspond thereto. The mere privilege of electing officers is really a piece of buncombe and clap-trap, serving to keep the men quiet. It does not and never can inure to their solid benefit. It is well to insist on the examining boards doing their duty, but too often they do not. In one instance fresh in our memory we remember a cavalry Captain to have passed the board as a competent officer, who, we discovered a few weeks later, by ocular demonstration, could not teach the school of the soldier to his men. With rare exceptions, our National Guard officers will generally admit that our examining boards do not furnish honest tests of an officer's ability. Their general object is to let any one pass if he only behaves like a gentleman. These examining boards, moreover, are only permissive, not obligatory, in our State. In Connecticut, they are obligatory, and the choosing of an officer is distinctly called a "nomination," not an election. In Connecticut and Massachusetts commissions are avowedly issued on trial, and full commissions not given till the officer has proved his fitness for the place. In Massachusetts this system is more thorough than even in Connecticut. Even then these measures are only palliatives of a bad system. In Connecticut there are hardly any poor officers. In Massachusetts, even in the crack brigade, there are plenty, at least in one regiment that we remember to have seen at Framingham camp. These few poor officers must have passed examining boards some how—a sign that something is defective in the boards. We seldom or never hear of a worthless officer in the Regular Army, after passing their stricter boards. If such are found, the defect generally lies in personal not professional character. Regular officers, whether from West Point or civil life, know their business. No one has ever taxed them with professional ignorance. In the two thousand officers of the New York National Guard, how many know their business thoroughly? It only needs to go to their drills, and parades, to find out that one-fifth of the whole number is a large over-estimate. Knowing, whereof we speak, we should be puzzled to point out five regiments in New York State with good reliable officers all through. We only have met two in New York city; in the country not one. In Connecticut, on the other hand, out of four regiments, three are superb specimens of citizen soldiers, excellently officered all through, and the other above the average of any New York regiments outside of three we could name. New York has tried the niggardly system with bad results since the State had a militia. Why not try a good system for at least a year to see how it works, reduce the force, pay the men, give them uniforms, and give them, best of all, good officers as the rule, not the exception?

SEVENTH INFANTRY.—Companies A, B, and H, of this command, held a battalion drill at the arsenal on Friday evening, 19th inst. The space allotted to spectators was filled to overflowing, and the landing at the head of the stairs was also packed. The operations of the evening commenced with a parade, which in nearly every respect was beautifully done, the three companies being equalized into six commands, each of the six having a front of sixteen files, the battalion when in line, extending from one end of the arsenal to the other. The first movement was the usual march in column of fours, and forming of line by fours left. These were almost perfect. Then followed the formation of double column, and the subsequent "Four right—left companies on right into line," these were executed with readiness and precision. Then followed several movements by company, which, with the exception of the wheeling, which the Seventh cannot boast about, were well performed. The "right of companies rear into column," was noticeably good. Then another march in column of fours, in which the step was as that of one individual, and a wheel by fours into line without a space or gap visible. After a few moments in the manual (which elicited the applause of the spectators), the command "companies break from right to march to left," was given. This was not perfectly executed, the turning being somewhat disunited. The next movement was a march in column of fours, by "left forward fours left." In this, the step was not well kept, the head of column having a quicker step than the rear. The battalion was then played into column of divisions "on the left," followed by the deployment and another column of fours, and fours left into line. All these, especially the last, were beautifully done.

The battalion, after a few more movements, similar to those last mentioned, marched backward in line, then dressed on centre. In the first movement the straightness of the line was not well preserved, but the latter was done well. Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder then gave the command

"close column on first division," but as he did not add "right in front," the Captains took it for granted that this was implied, and formed column accordingly. After the usual deployment, close column was again formed on first division left in front, and deployed on same division, all in good style. "Double column, fours left and right," and "deploy" column, were both gone through in first class style. "Right of divisions rear into column," was well and steadily performed, but when after coming into line, the battalion marched from left about twice, both evolutions were somewhat faulty.

The next manoeuvres were forming divisions from companies, and from divisions again into companies. In these there was some really good wheeling—the best we have seen the Seventh do this winter. On one occasion, however, much distance was lost, and the command was halted and the order "guides cover," given to notify the defect. After this the order was given, "divisions right forward, fours right," then into column of fours, then into divisions, all by fours, and all done with marvellous rapidity and precision. The drill closed after a few more movements in columns of fours, and a short exercise in the manual, at the end of which Lieutenant-Colonel Ryder gave the command, "dismiss your companies."

This drill was by all odds the best one of the season, and completely eclipsed the other drills of the Seventh already noticed in our columns. The manual, and forming line from column of fours, were particularly noticeable for the exactitude with which they were executed. Some of the movements (as we have already noticed), were not perfectly done, but the great majority were performed with that snap which made them worthy of the good name the regiment has earned. We hope to witness one or two more of the same kind before the winter is over.

AMERICAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION.—The prize meeting of this society on Washington's Birthday was a guarantee of future success to its officers, for everything passed off satisfactorily. The new targets were found to work perfectly, when managed in the same manner as iron targets, and the repeated challenges of nifty marksmen who could not believe they had missed, were decided to the satisfaction of all by the ordinary glass. This match is a matter of congratulation to the managers, as solving the target question in their favor at a very small proportion of the cost of iron targets. They found that the wooden ones could be treated in exactly the same way as those of iron, that the brush on the back of the disk covers the minute hole even better than the star-shaped splash on the iron slab, that traps are not needed, that the danger of glancing is entirely absent, and that any number of targets can be put up with appropriate pits, at a cost inside of \$12 a target. The whole art of the thing consists in building the targets of blocks of wood, set on end to the marksman. Bullet after bullet seems to have no effect, the grain closing in on a little black hole half the size of the ball, which a dab of paint immediately closes. The change in the shape of the targets from those in use at Creedmoor is considerable. The reduction in size has caused considerable comment from the poorer shots, whose reputation at Creedmoor depends on outers and centres. The following matches were shot with the results given below:

First competition for the De Peyster Badge: open to members of the National Guard in uniform; distance, 200 yards; weapon, any military rifle; 7 scoring, 2 sighting shots; to be won three times before passing; number of competitors, 30; highest possible score, 35. The following is the score in detail of the best shots:

C. E. Robbins, Seventh regiment.	4 2 4 3 4 3—33
W. S. Bevan, Eighth regiment.	4 3 2 4 3 3—33
H. H. Meday, Eighth regiment.	3 2 4 3 4 3—33
J. Beatty, Twelfth regiment.	4 3 4 5 3 3—33
H. B. Smith, Twelfth regiment.	5 4 4 3 2 2—31
A. Wood, Twelfth regiment.	2 3 4 3 3 3—30
J. L. Price, Seventh regiment.	0 4 3 3 3 3—30
E. H. Sanford, Seventh regiment.	2 2 4 0 3 4—19
J. Gee, Eighth regiment.	0 4 5 2 3 2—18

ALL-COMERS' MATCH.—Four prizes, open to any rifle at 200 yards, five scoring and two sighting shots. The first prize was a silver water service; value, \$75. The second an order for \$50 worth of shrubs and fruit trees presented from the nursery of Captain J. W. Coburn. The third prize was a silver trophy, valued at \$25; the fourth being a subscription to the "Forest and Stream," value, \$5. The leading scores were as follows:

Name and rifle.	Score.
J. Gee, (Remington military).	3 4 3 5 4—19
W. S. Bevan, (Remington military).	3 5 5 2 4—19
G. Thorn, (Remington military).	2 3 5 5 1—17
J. J. Meagher, (Remington military).	4 2 4 2 2—16

Throughout the day a subscription match was kept open, at \$1 entrance, five shots, the gross receipts to be divided—one-third to the Association, the other two-thirds to the three highest scores in equal divisions. In this the number of entries exceeded eighty, the pool character of the shooting attracting renewed attempts to gain a stake, one marksman entering over a dozen times, and gaining as a result of his pertinacity a double portion of the winnings. Any rifle was allowed at 200 yards. The result was that the money was divided between E. H. Madison, who received \$19.20 for the first place, and C. M. Schieffelin, the Assembly Representative from the district, who had come down from Albany to give his constituents a sample of his skill, taking the second and third shares, \$38.40. The four leading scores were as follows:

E. H. Madison.	3 3 5 5 2—19
C. M. Schieffelin.	2 5 4 3 5—19
C. M. Schieffelin.	5 4 3 3 3—18
E. H. Sanford.	3 5 3 2 4—17

SEVENTY-NINTH INFANTRY.—A battalion drill of this regiment was held on Wednesday evening, 17th inst. The attendance was nearly as small as at the last drill, there being six commands, each having a front of twelve, in single rank formation. Lieutenant-Colonel Laing being confined to his house by a severe illness, the command devolved upon Captain Clark. The line was formed at 8:35 p. m., there being the usual delay in equalizing. The drill commenced with a short exercise in the manual, which was fair, followed by "companies right wheel," and a march in column of companies round the room, with drums beating at the head of the column. On completing the circuit of the room, the drum corps wheeled out, and a march in column of fours was executed, the step not being well kept, and entirely too slow, as was also the step in column of companies. In fact, during the entire evening the step was as slow as a funeral march. The second time the battalion marched in fours the improvement was marked. "Forward guide centre" was tolerably well done. "Fours left about" was not performed so well, there being gaps left in the line. "Column of companies break from right to march to left," and another march in company column, was fairly, though not remarkably well executed. "Left into line wheel" was rather faulty, but the succeeding advance in line was pretty straight. After another march in column of companies the command was given, "On right into line." This movement was creditable enough, although all the captains did not give necessary commands, and the guide of the second company did not come out on the line. The next manoeuvre

were by division and company, fours left, and the consequent marches in column. Left into line wheel was given, and only two guides came out on the line, one of whom reversed his piece. After a brief "rest" and a few movements of the manual, Captain Clark formed double column. This and the deployment into line was twice executed fairly well; the second time the direction of column was changed successfully, and deployed in very good style. The next few movements were mostly movements by company, such as "right of companies rear into column." The concluding manoeuvres were, close columns on first and third divisions, right and left in front, and the usual deployments. The whole concluded with a dress parade with drums. There was observable through the drill an apparent lack of "snap," owing to the slowness of the step. There is no reason whatever that the step should be so sluggish. There were other faults which we have not touched on, but which were, though not great, quite unnecessary. Captain Clark did very well as commander, except that his orders were for the part the obsolete ones of the old manual. The latter part of the drill was quite creditable to the regiment, and could there but be a larger showing of men the command would be a really good one. We would call attention to two things which were not correct, and which were observable all through the drill: one being that the Sergeant-Major had no sword, and the other that at all the deployments the guide of the right company invariably remained in the ranks.

FIFTY-FOURTH INFANTRY.—Commandants of companies are ordered to furnish headquarters with a complete roster of their respective commands on or before March 1. The field, line officers, and adjutant will assemble at the arsenal, in undress uniform, on Thursdays, March 4 and 18, April 1 and 22, for theoretical instruction. Assembly on each occasion at 8 o'clock p. m. The Quartermaster will, on the first Wednesday of each month, make an inspection of all arms, accoutrements, clothing, and other State property in company quarters, and make return thereof within ten days after each inspection to headquarters. Commandants of companies, with their Quartermaster-Sergeant, must be present at these inspections. The action of Company E, January 6, expelling Private John A. Russell, for forgery and appropriating funds belonging to the company to his own use, is approved. Wednesday evening of each week is designated as "regimental headquarters night," when all matters relating to the command will be attended to. All communications intended for headquarters will be addressed to Lieutenant S. S. Eddy, Adjutant Fifty-fourth regiment N. G. S. N. Y., 31 North Water street.

It is evident from the style of Colonel Beggs' orders that he intends to make the Fifty-fourth a good working regiment, and there is no reason why he should not succeed. There is plenty of good material lying around Rochester which only needs good management to be utilized.

TWELFTH INFANTRY.—The drill of the Twelfth on Wednesday evening, 24th inst., was an improvement on the January exercises, and beats anything yet seen in the arsenal, except the previous Friday battalion drill of Companies A, B, and H, of the Seventh. It was made the occasion of a presentation of plate to Colonel Gildersleeve and Captain Fulton, both late of the regiment, now parted from it by staff details. Colonel Ward made the presentation speech, in which he referred to the renown gained for the regiment by the fact of two of its members having shot in the great International Match, and helped to gain the victory for America. Captain Fulton made the first reply, and got out of the difficulty of a speech, neatly, compactly, and without any unnecessary talking. Colonel Gildersleeve made a very handsome speech, and covered himself with glory. It's not often that shooters are talkers or vice versa, but Colonel Gildersleeve is both. The criticism on the drill is unavoidably postponed to our next issue, on account of its length.

EIGHTH BRIGADE.—The appointment of the following named officers on the staff of the Brigade commander is announced: Lieutenant-Commander John A. Van Kuren, Assistant Adjutant-General; Major William Haubennestel, Inspector; Major William R. Elting, Engineer; Major Robert E. Taylor, Judge-Advocate; Major Robert K. Tut-hill, Surgeon; Captain John Bodine, Inspector of Rifle Practice; Captain Reuben Reynolds, Ordnance Officer; Captain Edward Elsworth, Quartermaster; Captain I. Reynolds, Aide-de-Camp; First Lieutenant Garrett N. Oliver, Aid-de-Camp.

ELEVENTH BRIGADE.—Major William H. Brownell, Forty-seventh regiment, is appointed member of the Examining Board, constituted by U. O., in place of Lieutenant-Colonel A. H. Rogers, relieved. The Brigade Examining Board will assemble at headquarters on Wednesday, the 3d day of March, at 8 o'clock p. m., for the examination of such officers as may be ordered before it.

VARIOUS ITEMS.

- CAPTAIN DOYLE, of the Fourteenth, has resigned.
- CAPTAIN GEO. B. HILL is the new Commissary of Subsistence First Brigade.
- COMPANY D, Eighth regiment, has elected First Lieutenant, M. J. Douglas, and Second Lieutenant, J. A. Gee.
- The First Battalion receives its friends at Irving Hall on March 3.
- The first winner of the De Peyster Badge was a Seventh man. Glad of it.
- The Troy Second Battalion paraded on the Birthday, being almost alone amongst the militia of the State.
- The Eighth regiment held a reception at their armory on the Birthday, and had a splendid time of it.
- The Eighth carried off another prize at the American Rifle Association meeting. This time it was Lieutenant Gee.
- The Lieutenant-Colonel Fay lately appointed in the Inspector-General's Department is the Colonel Fay late of General Woodward's staff.
- The Twentieth Battalion, of Kingston, will soon be the Second regiment. Two companies are about to join it.
- GENERAL DAKIN is Major-General of the Second Division, and the Senate has confirmed him.
- CAPTAIN O'KELLY, of the Sixty-ninth, and Captain Orson, of the Seventy-first, have passed the board with flying colors.
- COLONEL TAYLOR, the new Assistant Adjutant-General at Albany, has been in the office as chief clerk for many years. A better choice could not have been made to fill the place.
- The Fourteenth Brooklyn had their little party on the inevitable Monday evening. With Contorno's well-known band to dance to, they naturally had a good time generally.
- The Ontario marksmen are to shoot with the American team of 1875 at Creedmoor. The year promises to be a great shooting year, and the marksmen must be first class to carry off prizes.
- The Sixth regiment entertained the Veterans of 1812 at Germania Rooms in the Bowery on Monday. The old gentlemen had a good dinner and did their best to dance after it, while everybody was happy.
- The Washington Greys, of course, come out strong on their natal day. They are now forty-two years old, and their ball on Monday was the finest of the kind for the season.
- LIEUTENANT-COLONEL KNAGG, for the officers of the Fifth has given Colonel Spencer a sword and all the gold lace necessary

for the proper magnificence of a Colonel. He did it at the ball on Wednesday, 17th.

—CAPTAIN O'KELLY, of the Sixty-ninth, shot the best score ever made at Maer's Park, Mount Vernon, on Washington's Birthday. Unluckily it was not in the official matches, in which he had bad luck. It ran 4 5 4 5 5, or 23 out of a possible 35. If he can keep this up, he stands a chance of taking and keeping the De Peyster Badge some day, if he only comes in uniform, with the right number on his cap.

—A new battalion is to be formed in Columbia county. General Parker has started the undertaking, and will carry it through. By the end of the year the Fifth Division will look very different from what it did at Poughkeepsie.

—WASHINGTON'S Birthday had never a parade in New York—more the pity. The First Division commander prefers the comforts of home to the uproar of the streets in slippery weather; and the weather has been—say the least—unpleasant this winter.

—WHAT was wanting in parades was made up in balls on Washington's Birthday. The Seventy-first came out in their bearskins in spite of the cold weather, drilled at the arsenal, and held a reception at the armory. As always with this regiment, it was a brilliant and enjoyable affair.

—The Eleventh regiment held a grand reception and ball at the Germania Rooms on Washington's Birthday. The music was good, the toasts brilliant, and the company much better than one ever gets at the Academy. The Germans always manage for that good, when we Yankees are obliged to put up with spoiled cider at \$5 a bottle.

—MAJOR LEECH at the last meeting of the Irish Rifle Association, paid the most glowing tributes to American hospitality during his visit of last year. English, Irish, and Scotch teams are to meet the Americans in June. Thanks were voted to the New York authorities and every one concerned in the International Match of 1874.

—COMPANY G, of the Twenty-third, has now furnished three Major-Generals to the Second Division. General Molinieux was a private in its ranks in 1854; General Woodward joined the same company the same day, and drilled in the same awkward squad; General Dakin joined in 1860. The only one of the trio that failed of confirmation by the Senate was the one that had seen war service outside of the National Guard.

—The tenth annual rifle tournament will commence at the gallery of J. S. Conlin, 930 Broadway, between Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets, March 15, 1875. The principal object of this tournament is to ascertain the twelve best short range shots in this city and vicinity. At the conclusion of the tournament, which will continue for thirty days, the highest twelve will form a team, which will be open to challenge, individually or collectively, for the space of one year, from any person or team in the world, at the same distances and under the same circumstances of this contest.

NEW JERSEY.

RIFLE NOTES.—A meeting of the Directors of the New Jersey Rifle Association was held Saturday evening, February 12, at Elizabeth, Captain De Hart, president, in the chair. Articles of incorporation have been presented to the Legislature by Hon. W. H. Gill, who has introduced the bill. The bill will soon come up on its second reading. The name of ex-Governor Joel Parker was ordered to be stricken out of the list of incorporators, that gentleman having recently accepted a position as a State officer, which would prevent him from remaining as an incorporator. The Governor will, however, lend his earnest endeavors to advance the interests of the association, the objects of which meet his entire approval. The name Colonel John J. Toffee, of Jersey City, was substituted in place thereof, and five hundred copies of by-laws were ordered to be printed. A committee of five directors was appointed to wait upon the members of the Legislature, and request the passage of the bill now before that body. They were Generals Plume and Drake, Captain De Hart, Hon. J. P. Bonnell, and Hon. Peter Bonnell. The Committee on Range is as follows: General Plume, General Drake, General Stryker (Adjutant-General), Colonel Hart, and Captain Drake. The President then appointed the following as the standing committees for the current year: Executive Committee—Captain W. H. De Hart, Hon. A. W. Cutler, General Joseph W. Plume, General Uriah De Hart, General J. Madison Drake, Major William Wilson, General W. S. Stryker, Lieutenant Colonel John C. Rose, Hon. C. W. Williams, Finance Committee—Hon. John P. Bonnell, Hon. T. D. Hodges, Sergeant Ira J. Hall, Range Committee—Captain Albert A. Drake, Colonel Benjamin F. Hart, Hon. Peter Bonnell. Prize Committee—General J. Madison Drake, General William Ward, General Joseph W. Plume. It is hoped that a suitable tract of ground can be secured early this spring and enclosed for work by early summer. It is the intention of the association to make a range a popular one—a place where the National Guardsmen and private citizens can practice and educate themselves in the use of the rifle.

The Phil. Kearney Guards, Company C, Third regiment, Capt. W. De Hart, have received the new breech-loading rifles, and are the first company in the State to receive them.

MASSACHUSETTS.

NINTH INFANTRY.—Wing drills of this battalion will be held under charge of the respective field officers one night in each month at such time and place as they may designate. Commanding officers will make immediate requisition for overcoats for their commands. Lieutenant Colonel Strachan is charged with the promulgation and execution of this order in the right wing and Major Logan in the left wing.

SECOND BATTALION.—In compliance with Special Orders No. 12, from brigade headquarters, Company A, of the Second Battalion of Infantry (colored), assembled at their armory on Tuesday evening, 16th ult., for inspection. Owing to the fact that Company B, the remaining company of the battalion, is quartered at New Bedford, it was thought inexpedient to order them out. Consequently the inspection was confined entirely to Company A. The company appeared with full ranks, showing a front of sixteen files; a very agreeable contrast with some of the other regiments lately inspected. The inspection of the arms and accoutrements was quite satisfactory; the arms being found in good condition; the uniforms were all that could be desired, fitting the men nicely, and being well made. After inspection, the company was drilled in the manual, which was generally poor. The men were unsteady, and the motions were not executed in time; several of the men in the rear ranks were awkward, and did not know the motions, relying mainly upon the men in front of them to post themselves. Allowance, however, should be made, when it is stated that they joined the company but a few weeks since, and have had but a short time to become familiar with the manual. Many of the company showed a desire to anticipate some of the commands before they were given. The drill by company which followed, was very creditable, and would compare favorably with the majority of the regiments already inspected. The weak point with the colored battalion appears to be in the manual. It needs "Snap" Captain Francis, the newly elected commander, is a good officer, and will no doubt in a short time bring the company to an excellent standard in drill and discipline.

At a meeting held by Company D, First Battalion of Cavalry, last week, the following officers were elected: First Lieutenant Hall to be Captain, vice Scott, resigned; Second Lieutenant Newcomb to be First Lieutenant, vice Hall, promoted; Sergeant Fenner to be Second Lieutenant, vice Newcomb, promoted.

The following are the changes registered at the Adjutant-General's Office for the week ending Saturday Feb. 20, 1875: *Conditional Commissions.*—Sixth regiment, Company A, Second Lieutenant, Samuel H. Mitchell.

Tenth regiment, Colonel, James M. Drennan; Lieutenant, Colonel, John F. Searle; Major, George E. Goodrich.

Full Commissions.—First regiment, Company C, First Lieutenant, George N. B. Cousins; Second Lieutenant, William E. Glover.

First Corps of Cadets, Captain, William F. Lawrence.

MICHIGAN.

THE PRESENT MILITIA.—The Peninsular State, after having borne a prominent part in the war for the Union, has until lately been far behind many of her sister States in the matter of

a military establishment. At the session of the State Legislature, two years ago, a crude militia law was enacted, and is now in force. It was scarcely more than a formality, in its make up, and although under it have sprung up two fine regiments, the law needs amending in many respects, being very defective in detail. Before the passage of the act forming this State militia, Michigan had two or three very fine companies already organized in the State, prominent among them being the Detroit Light Guards and the Ann Arbor Zouaves; but since the law became operative a new impetus has been given to military matters in Michigan, and we have strong hopes that the time is not far distant when that noble State will be as well supplied with a National Guard as it should be. Already the State troops have been of great service in the suppression of miners' riots, and also in crushing out a riot among raft runners.

As yet but two regiments have been formed as follows: First regiment—Company A—Detroit Light Guard, Detroit; Company B—Port Huron Zouaves, Port Huron; Company C—National Guard, Detroit; Company D—Adrian Light Guard, Adrian; Company E—Tecumseh Zouaves, Tecumseh; Company F—Monroe Light Guard, Monroe; Company G—Hudson Light Guard, Hudson; Company H—Ypsilanti Light Guard, Ypsilanti; Company I—Jackson Light Guard, Jackson. Second regiment—Company A—Coldwater Light Guard, Coldwater; Company B—Flint Union Blues, Flint; Company C—Grand Rapids Guard, Grand Rapids; Company D—Kalamazoo Light Guard, Kalamazoo; Company E—Peninsula, Bay City; Company F—East Saginaw Rifles, East Saginaw; Company G—Port Huron Guard, Port Huron; Company H—Marquette Company, Marquette.

It may be a matter of interest to know the cost of the uniforms recently furnished the several companies. The coats and trousers cost \$19.75 each, and the caps, pom-poms, and ornaments complete, and shoulder knots cost \$2.50 per set. The Quarter-master-General recommends the purchase of a good and serviceable overcoat to complete the outfit, and the building of a State Arsenal. Concerning the expenses of the department the Quarter-master-General in his last report says:

"While the business of the department has been conducted with the most rigid economy, the necessary expenses have increased considerably over those of the previous year, and the forming of the entire body of State troops, the expenses incurred by troops on duty, the establishing of the military museum, etc., but the additional outlay is more than balanced by the efficiency and splendid condition of our volunteer soldiers, a finer body than which is not in existence."

The troops are armed with the improved Springfield breech-loader, a piece which gives good satisfaction. Almost all of the companies have elegant dress uniforms in addition to the plain State dress. The latter consists of a dark blue frock coat with light blue facings; light blue trousers with wide dark blue stripe; dark blue shoulder knots with light blue cord trimming and fringe, and a fine fur cap, with white pom-pom tipped with light blue, and ornamented with the State coat-of-arms. The Quarter-master-General in his report, says:

"The renting and maintaining of suitable armories and drill-rooms in the towns where companies are located, is often very difficult, as in the smaller towns there is seldom more than one hall appropriate for the purpose, and to secure that we have to pay a much larger rental in proportion than is paid for other rooms in the same towns. Most of the companies have large good armories, and they are well cared for and are admirably fitted up, some of them being very tastefully furnished and ornamented by the company having the use of them. The expense of armories is no small part of the cost of maintaining our military organization."

That the State force is economically handled may be seen by the following report of expenditures for the year 1874:

Adjutant-General's office.....	\$2,944 28
Quarter-master-General's office.....	2,358 02
Quarter-master-General's office (sundry expenses).....	14,005 95
Inspector-General's office.....	91 70
State Military Board.....	266 15
Insane soldiers.....	629 40
Regimental headquarters.....	53 00
Military Museum.....	325 38
State uniforms.....	29,512 09
Total.....	\$50,685 88

This exhibit is very satisfactory, and shows that Michigan has begun at the right end in completely uniforming a small body of troops, instead of vainly trying to half maintain an army.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A NEW READER, Fort Ellis, M. T., asks: What qualifications does a person need to possess to enter the U. S. Signal Corps? What books would be best to get, and who to get them from? What is the pay in Fort Whipple and on a station? How much additional for re-enlisting? How long would a person have to be at Fort Whipple before he could get on a station? How long would it take to be a sergeant? Is the number of sergeants and privates limited? and is the corps full? By answering the above you will oblige. ANSWER.—In the JOURNAL for December 12, 1874, you will find all the information you can wish as to entry in the Signal Corps.

JOHN GILMORE, February 3, asks when the U. S. S. *Powhatan* is coming here. ANSWER.—Left discretionary with Admiral Case what port he will come to. Will be home about the 10th March.

WIND JAMMER, Nashville, Tenn., February 6, 1875, writes us: "Will you be kind enough to answer a few questions through the columns of the JOURNAL? 1. Supposing the commanding officer of a regiment or post signs his name to a blank discharge, and a man not entitled to his discharge fills in the blank space and then leaves the Army, can he be apprehended as a deserter? 2. Can the commanding officer of a regiment of post compel the members of the regimental band to play outside of the garrison for citizens? or if the officers have a right to take money from the band, when they get paid for music rendered to citizens outside of the garrison? Also, if the officers can compel members of a string band to play for citizens when the instruments and music are the private property of members of the band? ANSWER.—1. We should not like to try the experiment, were we in your place. It might end uncomfortably. 2. A bandsman plays when and where he is ordered."

TWENTY-THIRD INFANTRY, Fort Fred. Steele, W. T., February 12, 1875, writes: Will you please inform me what the "health lift" is? ANSWER.—The health lift is a machine for developing the muscles and increasing the vitality of the system by gentle exercise. It consists of a platform so adjusted at the end of a lever that the person standing on this platform and pulling at a pair of upright handles with a greater or less weight, according to the adjustment of the machine by a scale which regulates the relation between the weight of the lifter and the length of the lever that he can in lifting himself exert a force which may vary from 20 to 1,200 lbs.

THE prevalence of desertion from the army and militia has led to the English government invoking the vigorous assistance of the police throughout the kingdom. Mr. Secretary Cross has issued an official circular to all local authorities, stating that the Secretary of War has represented to the Home Office that complaints have been made by the War Department of want of activity on the part of the police generally in apprehending and bringing deserters to justice, and urging strongly the great importance of such offenders not escaping punishment, and invites attention to the War Department's complaint respecting the police. The magistrates, etc., have noticed the circular in several instances, and the general tendency of constabulary opinion seems to be that the police are quite as active as they ought to be, and do as much as they are paid for.

FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE *Esercito* says that the military authorities are discussing the question of defending Rome by a system of permanent fortifications.

THE cargo of the brig *Gustav* being ascertained to be the property of a Spanish merchant, the German government has limited its claims for compensation against the Spanish Government to the value of the vessel—namely, 10,000 thalers.

AT the close of his recent lecture on the mercantile navy of England, Captain Bedford Pim mentioned that he was preparing a second paper on the royal navy, and if the mercantile marine was bad, the navy was worse. It was, he averred, in the most frightful condition possible, from the First Lord of the Admiralty down to the second-class cabin-boy.

(Two large guns designed for coast defence are about to be constructed at the Royal Arsenal at Turin, the calibre of which will be 40 centimetres and 46 centimetres respectively. Those recently made at this establishment of 32 centimetres calibre have given excellent results at the trials made at the camp of St. Maurizio.)

A TELEGRAM from Berlin states that, though seriously disappointed at England's refusal to take part in the second conference on the usages of war, Russia will, according to a statement current in well-informed circles, not suffer herself on that account to be deterred from the prosecution of her favorite object, but will convoke the conference without England. The Emperor Alexander is said to entertain the hope that England will join at a later stage.

UNDER the head of "They manage these things better in America," the London *United Service Gazette* quotes from this paper a War Department General Order, in which the remittal of a sentence on an officer is announced, the grounds for such exercise of leniency being "a solemn pledge to abstain from the use of all intoxicating drinks, and to prove himself worthy of the confidence of his superior officers, and all the officers of his regiment serving at the post having recommended the same."

ADMIRAL LAPLACE, the oldest officer in the French navy, in which he attained to some fame previous to 1848, lately died at the age of 82. He was specially known as having commanded the *Artemise*, a corvette of 30 guns, on a scientific and hydrographic expedition. Two of the officers of this expedition are now in high position; one is Rear-Admiral the Marquis de Montaignac, now a Minister, who was then *enseigne de vaisseau*; the other is Vice-Admiral Paris, who lost his left hand during this voyage, and is a member of the Academy of Sciences, well known for his work on steam-engines.

It is stated in English journals that the insurance companies are debating the advisability of putting an extra premium on the members of the Arctic Expedition, to cover the risks which are supposed to attach to the duty they are to be engaged in. The best authorities consulted are, however, of opinion that the risks are not so great as on the west coast of Africa, and that no extra premiums need be exacted. Most of the insurance companies refuse to take the risk of insuring the lives of those serving on board H. M. S. *Devastation*, except at a very high advance on the ordinary rates.

A CURIOUS fact connected with the statistics of intoxication in the English army, in India, is given by Dr. Bryden: In seven years 106 deaths from *delirium tremens* have occurred in the British Bengal army. In eighty-six cases the patients were sergeants, and in only twenty privates. Supposing the deaths had been in proportion to the relative numbers of the two classes, the cases in the sergeants' list should only have been one-fifteenth as numerous as those of the rank-and-file. The obvious deduction is that the sergeants have facilities for obtaining liquor at their messes which are greater than those enjoyed by the men, in a ratio exceeding that which represents their superior trustworthiness.

A LONDON military journal quotes from a leading article in the ARMY AND NAVY JOURNAL of Jan. 10th, on the subject of desertion and its remedies, and calls especial attention to our commendations of our present pay bill, saying: "If the War Office could be induced to 'go out of Committee' for a little while, and 'apply its mind' to the provisions of this American pay bill, which has so decreased the number of desertions in the United States Army of men enlisted under circumstances analogous to those which obtain in this country, we think it might hit upon an efficient system—at all events, on one more likely to produce substantial results—than that which the Report of the Committee on Recruiting, that has just brought its labors to a close, seems likely to effect."

THE French scientific paper, *Les Mondes*, suggests that brimstone should be carried on board every ship for use in case of fire. Half-a-hundredweight (30 kilos.) of brimstone would be sufficient to abstract the whole of the oxygen from 100 cubic metres of air, thus rendering it unfitted to support combustion. In a closed space, like a ship's hold, the sulphurous gas produced by the burning of the brimstone, would penetrate where water from the decks could not be brought to bear, and the density of the gas would

prevent its rising or spreading if care were taken to close the hatches carefully with wet sails, etc. It is suggested that the brimstone should be made up in the form of large matches, the ends of which could be passed through scuttles prepared for them in the decks or bulkheads in case of need. It is asserted that twenty to twenty-five francs' worth of brimstone would be sufficient to stifle and annihilate all traces of combustion in an air-space of 1,000 cubic metres capacity.

The crews of the Russian navy serving on board ship or on shore in 1874 amounted to 25,787 men; 3,500 of them belonged to the Black Sea fleet, 1,400 to the Caspian fleet, 500 to the Aral fleet, and 2,450 to the Siberian fleet, the remaining 18,000 being numbered with the Baltic establishment. There were 19 admirals, 30 vice-admirals, 32 rear-admirals, 205 1st-class captains, 97 2nd-class captains, 303 captain lieutenants, 443 lieutenants, and 125 midshipmen of the special corps attached to the navy. The navigation detachment contained 5 generals and 508 staff officers, the naval artillery 4 generals and 197 staff officers, the naval engineers 6 generals and 139 staff officers, the naval mechanicians 2 generals and 543 staff officers, the naval architect corps 8 generals and 48 staff officers. In addition to these, 13 generals and 283 staff officers were placed at the disposal of the Admiralty for various purposes. The Medical Department of the navy counted 199 surgeons and 61 assistants.

A writer gives the following account of a Chinese review: A grand review of Chinese troops occurred last year in the Province of Emise. Two divisions were marched out to the parade ground, and mustered face to face. Each company bore two splendidly colored flags, and the soldiers carried old-fashioned arquebuses, called *tyfus*, ten per company, as four men are required to shoot this weapon. Each division had half a company of lancers, with their heads tied up in handkerchiefs, the ends of which were left to float in the breeze; also archers, entirely dressed in yellow, bearing huge round shields, dragon painted, and wearing short swords. Between the two divisions stood a band of music, composed of flutes, horse, and tinkling cymbals and drums, big and little. Near the band the General in Chief and his staff, with colossal flag and a few smaller ones, took up his station. At a given signal, the General's big flag waved, then all the other flags waved, and the most intricate *chassez croix* of manoeuvres commenced among the soldiers. At another signal, the lancers, archers, and specialists ran about, gesticulated, jumped, and cut the most fantastic antics. The archers performed by sitting down on the ground, while holding their shields over their heads for protection, and suddenly leaping up with frightful cries and shaking of their various armor, which, of course, put the enemy's cavalry to flight, as intended. The lancers formed in little bands of skirmishers, and advanced to hunt for the enemy gone to cover. They found him, after rapid firing along the whole line, made a show of eating him up alive, including painted dragons and monsters. Closing shout of victory; grand gongs. These tactics are the result of long experience, but they are not Moltke's.

The monitor *Sohmoes*, built by the company of the Forges et Chantiers, of the Mediterranean, for the Brazilian government, underwent official trial at Toulon on the 5th instant. The vessel drew 3.40 metres of water, a very small draught compared with the displacement, armament, and speed of the vessel. The guns are to be supplied by Messrs. Whitworth, and the carriages by Messrs. Armstrong, but these not having arrived from England were replaced by 310 tons of ballast, placed upon the deck. The *Sohmoes* is 73m.20 long and 17.70 in width over the armor-plates; the deck is only about 0m.95 above the water-line. The armor-plates, 0m.305 in thickness, were supplied by MM. Marrel freres, of Rive-de-Gier. Two turrets, 7m.64 exterior diameter, surmounted the deck, which is formed of three layers of strong plate iron, covered with teak. The armor-plates of the turrets vary in thickness from 0m.330 to 0m.280, and each turret is pierced for two 23-ton Whitworth guns. Behind the fore turret is a fixed tower, for the security of the commanding officer, and over the turrets is a strong bridge or false deck. When at sea the true deck will be constantly swept by the sea. The communication between the false deck and the interior of the vessel is through large rectangular shafts formed of thick iron plate, and perfectly staunch. The turrets are turned either by hand, or by means of very simple steam apparatus, which is reported to have acted admirably. The same remarks apply to the steering apparatus, supplied by MM. Stapper de Duclos and Co., of La Capelle, who also supply the steam-crane and anchor apparatus. The anchors, which include four Martin's, of 3 1-2 tons, can be worked either by hand or by steam. In fact, throughout the vessel, steam is called into requisition. Two bronze screws are driven by two independent horizontal compound engines of 1,100 effective horse-power each. These engines, as also those for the twin monitor *Savary*, now under construction at Havre, were furnished by the Mazeline Company, at the last-named place. In spite of a fresh breeze, the speed is officially declared to have been 11 1-4 knots per hour, the constructors having only undertaken to give the vessel a speed of

10 knots. The monitor was delivered to the Brazil authorities on the very day twelve months that the order for her was signed.

THE *Salut Public* of Lyons gives an account of some experiments that have lately been made with a view to testing the value of a process invented by M. de la Bastie, a manufacturer of Bourg, for strengthening glass so as to render it not only hailproof, but also to resist the effects of fire and accidents. These experiments were carried out at the railway station of Pont d'Ain at the request of the authorities of the railway company, in order to satisfy them of the value of this invention, which naturally would be of the highest importance to them, were it possible to render less liable to breakage the glass roofs, the repairs of which form a serious item in the expenditure of railway companies. A sheet of glass 6 millimetres in thickness, held in a wooden frame, was placed on the floor of a room, and a brass ball weighing 100 grammes was let fall on it from a height which gradually increased until the glass was broken by the shock. It was found that falling from a height of 24 centimetres the glass was shattered by the ball. A sheet of glass only half the thickness—viz., 3 millimetres—but which had been prepared by the new process, was then placed in the frame, and the same weight was allowed to fall upon it, gradually increasing the height, but without any effect even when dropped from the ceiling of the room. The experiment was next continued out of doors, and it was not until the weight had been dropped from a height of 5.75 centimetres that the plate of glass was broken. Dropped on the ground, a sheet of the prepared glass rebounded slightly, and with a sound like that of metal when thrown down. Another experiment was made with a view to test its resistance to fire. A slip of common glass was held in the flame of a lamp, and at the end of twenty-four seconds it snapped in two. The same was repeated with a slip of the prepared glass, but the flame had no effect upon it; and even after plunging the heated glass suddenly into cold water the glass was not broken. The importance of such an invention may easily be imagined, and its application in an endless variety of ways will readily suggest themselves not only to engineers, builders, etc., but to persons engaged in almost every class of trade. It is stated that this result is obtained by heating the glass and cooling it in oil.

THE English papers describe what they speak of as a "successful trial," lately made there, with a high speed torpedo steam launch, which has just been built for the Argentine Republic, by Messrs. Yarrow and Hedley, of Poplar. The little craft is designed to run quickly up to an enemy's vessel, to discharge a torpedo under her bottom, and to retire still more quickly—that is, provided the enemy permits her to do so. For these purposes she had been admirably designed, and appears to be well adapted. She measures 55ft. in length, with a beam of 7ft., and is built throughout of Lowmoor iron plates with steel ribs and framing. Her engines are on the high-pressure non-condensing principle, and of 60 indicated horse-power, taking steam from a boiler of the locomotive type at 150lb. working pressure. She is fitted with a three bladed screw propeller of 3ft. 3in. diameter and 3ft. 6in. pitch, and her contract speed is a continuous run of seventy miles in five hours. On her run at the measured mile she developed an average speed of 12 1-2 knots per hour. The torpedo gear consists of a spar 25ft. long, which is run out over the bows, and on the fore end of which the torpedo is fixed. The torpedo is a copper cylindrical case, capable of containing about 60 lb. of lithofracture, dynamite, or gun-cotton. The charge is exploded electrically, the circuit being completed either by the contact of the torpedo with the enemy's ship, or by the operator in the launch at will. The fore part of the torpedo is fitted with a contact circuit-closer, from which a couple of insulated wires pass through the charge, and are led up to the battery, which is placed in the fore part of the boat. The electric fuse, which is of platinum, is connected with the return wire in the centre of the charge, an extra wire being attached to the return wire a little forward of fuse. This wire is also connected with the battery, and has a hand circuit-closer attached to it, by which means the charge can be exploded by the operator on board the launch, if desired. This hand circuit-closer is a small ebonite cylinder, having a spring which is pressed down to effect the firing. The torpedo gear has been constructed by Capt. McEvoy, of the London Ordnance Works, from the designs of Capt. Hunter Davidson, and its efficiency was satisfactorily tested at the recent trial by running a blind torpedo, fused, against a vessel, when the fuse detonated, as it did also when fired by hand from on board the launch. The speed of the little vessel was also proved to be excellent, a run from Greenwich Pier to London bridge with a slight tide against her being made in twenty-one minutes, inclusive of two stoppages.

At a recent meeting of the Royal Institution, London, a lecture was delivered by Professor Huxley on "The Challenger Expedition." The Professor observed that the *Challenger* was not despatched to perform the Sisyphæan task of finding the way to the North Pole—a task which, under the auspices of the First Lord of the Admiralty, whom they were

glad to see present, would, he trust, soon be reckoned among the accomplished labors of Hercules; and the gallant commander of the *Challenger* had been recalled, as a faithful servant should, to still more responsible duties. Every step of the *Challenger's* course had been most carefully planned beforehand, and he would confine himself to that portion of her work on which he was best qualified to speak—namely, the distribution of life at the bottom of the deep sea. The first instrument which successfully brought up portions of this bottom was used by Sir John Ross in 1818, seconded by Captain, afterwards Sir, Edward Sabine. The result of their observations—microscopical examination being then unknown—had not been exactly preserved, but subsequent soundings a little further north showed that the bottom was entirely made up of the skeletons or cases of diatomaceous plants and radiolaria, the silicious matter being obtained from the water by the action of those plants, which cover the surface in places like a thick scum. We have thus a silicious polecap, extending to about 55 deg., and it was not without reason that when in 1839 the Admiralty fitted out an Antarctic expedition Humboldt suggested that attempts should be made to ascertain the existence of an Antarctic cap of the same nature—a conjecture which was perfectly verified. Between these two zones, Ehrenburg, so long ago that his merits were apt to be ignored, had demonstrated that the greater portion of the sea bottom was composed of globigerina marl formed by the deposit of organisms similar to those now living. Whether at the bottom or not was a point which he would not decide, for Professor Wyville Thompson and some of his colleagues were at issue on this point; but if so, certainly at the surface also. One remarkable fact was due to the *Challenger* investigations only—namely, below a depth of about 14,000ft., instead of the well-known globigerina clay, there was a red mud, which on chemical examination was found to be the same substance of which only about one or two per cent. was discoverable in the globigerina mud—a striking instance of the power of the infinitely little. Another striking fact was the identity of the green sand now forming in certain parts of the deep sea with the green sand long known to geologists. In conclusion, the professor, without entering into any controversy with physicists, who said the forces formerly at work on the earth must have been greater than now, was content to affirm that within the time of which they had any record there was no proof that they were ever any greater than now. This grand truth had been first clearly maintained by Sir Charles Lyell, in whom, though he was unable to be with them, yet age had not lessened the force of his intelligence, or the vivacity with which, up to the age of eighty, he followed the progress of knowledge, and who had lived to see the heresy of his youth become the truism of his old age.

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BIRTHS.

CHOSEY.—At Leonia, New Jersey, February 17, 1875, to MARY A., and Captain George L. Chosey, Eleventh U. S. Infantry, a daughter.

ROBINSON.—At Sparta, Wisconsin, February 18, 1875, to the wife of Lieutenant W. W. Robinson, Jr., Third Cavalry, U. S. Army, a son.

MARRIED.

[Announcements of Marriages FIFTY CENTS each, and the signature and address of the party sending should accompany the notice.]

SHERIDAN—HUGO.—At Ringgold Barracks, Texas, November 3, 1874, Captain ANDREW SHERIDAN, U. S. Army to MARY HUGO.

DIED.

Brief announcements will be inserted under this head without charge. Obituary notices and resolutions should be paid for at the rate of two cents a word, unless it is intended to leave the question of their insertion to the discretion of the Editor.

AUMAN.—At Fort Columbus, N. Y. H., on February 19, of scarlet fever, BESSIE, daughter of Lieutenant William and Emma E. Auman, Thirtieth U. S. Infantry, aged 5 years, 6 months, and 24 days.

BEER.—On the 20th inst., in Brooklyn, N. Y., of scarlet fever, JESSIE LILLIAN, only child of Major William S. and Sophia Sparks Beebe, aged 19 months and 24 days.

COUNSELLMAN.—At the residence of B. J. Willis, 475 West Fayette street, Baltimore, on Sunday, February 21, Colonel J. H. COUNSELLMAN, First U. S. Artillery.